THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

伊藤潤二 恐怖マンガ Collection

[12] いじめっ娘

朝日ソノラマ

伊藤潤二・恐怖マンガCOLLECTION 12 いじめっ娘

朝日ソノラマ

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[12] いじめっ娘

いじめっ娘
脱走兵のいる家
父の心
記憶
路地裏
シナリオどおりの恋
土の中…

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目次

いじめっ娘…… 3
（「月刊ハロウィン」1990年8月号掲載）

脱走兵のいる家…… 35
（「月刊ハロウィン」1990年9月号掲載）

父の心…… 69
（「月刊ハロウィン」1990年5・6月号掲載）

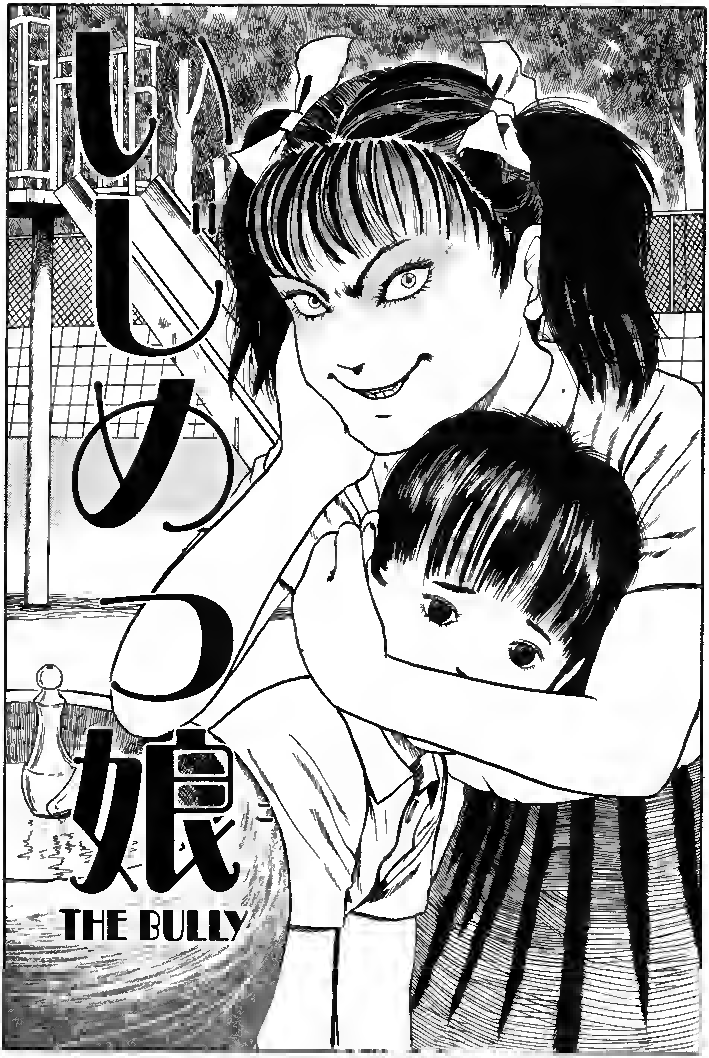
記憶…… 133
（「眠れぬ夜の奇妙な話」1993年Vol.11掲載）

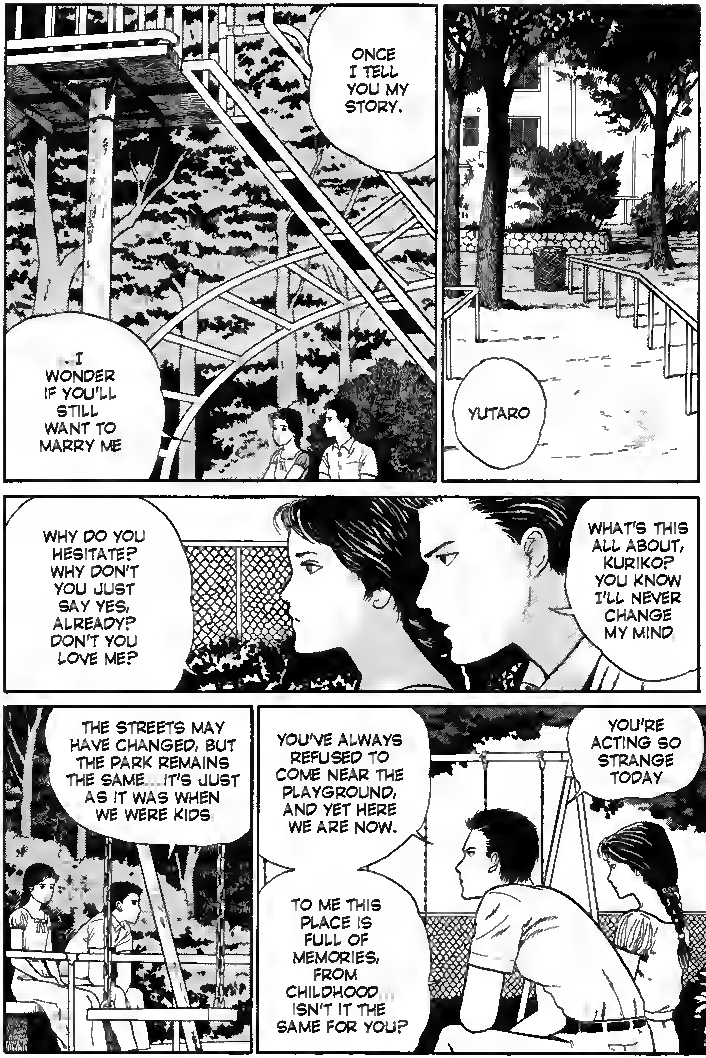
路地裏…… 157
（「月刊ハロウィン」1992年3月号掲載）

シナリオどおりの恋…… 189
（「月刊ハロウィン」1989年6月増刊号掲載）

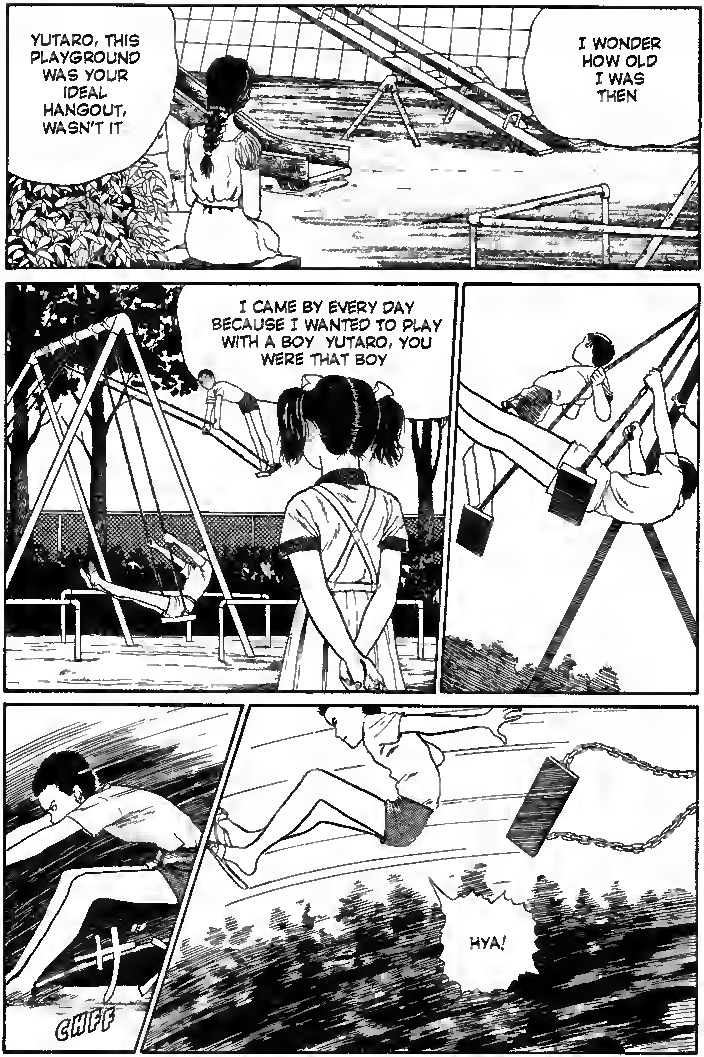
土の中… …… 209
（「ネムキ」1994年Vol.18掲載）

解説／扉沢俊一… 225


いじめっ娘
THE BULLY


ONCE I TELL YOU MY STORY.
...I WONDER IF YOU'LL STILL WANT TO MARRY ME
YUTARO
WHY DO YOU HESITATE? WHY DON'T YOU JUST SAY YES, ALREADY? DON'T YOU LOVE ME?
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, KURIKO? YOU KNOW I'LL NEVER CHANGE MY MIND
THE STREETS MAY HAVE CHANGED, BUT THE PARK REMAINS THE SAME...IT'S JUST AS IT WAS WHEN WE WERE KIDS
YOU'VE ALWAYS REFUSED TO COME NEAR THE PLAYGROUND, AND YET HERE WE ARE NOW.
TO ME THIS PLACE IS FULL OF MEMORIES, FROM CHILDHOOD... ISN'T IT THE SAME FOR YOU?
YOU'RE ACTING SO STRANGE TODAY

YOUR DARK PAST?
FOR ME, THIS PLACE HAS BEEN THE SYMBOL OF MY DARK PAST
I'VE EVEN WISHED THEY'D GET RID OF IT...
I. .I'VE ALWAYS WANTED IT TO CHANGE
ACTUALLY, I.. I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT YOU
I MEAN, I KNOW I WAS A ROUGH KID BACK THEN, BUT WE WERE YOUNG YOU KNOW HOW BOYS ARE
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME THAT OUR PAST TOGETHER WAS SO BLEAK FOR YOU
I JUST CAN'T IN GOOD CONSCIENCE MARRY YOU WITHOUT TELLING THE FULL STORY.
I MIGHT AS WELL COME CLEAN...IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, JUST TELL ME SO.
THE REASON I ASKED YOU HERE TODAY IS I'VE FINALLY MADE UP MY MIND TO TELL YOU ABOUT MY PAST.


YUTARO, THIS PLAYGROUND WAS YOUR IDEAL HANGOUT, WASN'T IT
I WONDER HOW OLD I WAS THEN
I CAME BY EVERY DAY BECAUSE I WANTED TO PLAY WITH A BOY YUTARO, YOU WERE THAT BOY
HYA!
CHFF

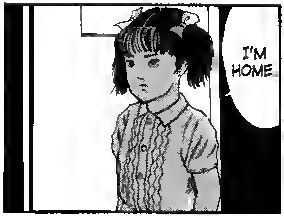
YOU WERE SUCH A COOL KID, YUTARO..
AH HA HA
LOOK, I BROKE THE RECORD!
OH DUDE!
SHE'S ALWAYS AROUND
YO, LOOK! THERE'S KURIKO AGAIN!
HEY KURIKO, I HEAR YOUR MOMMY CALLIN'!

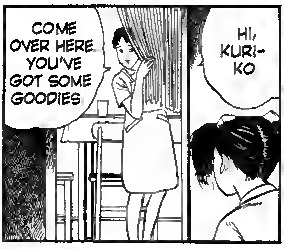
GO ON, KURIKO! GO HOME!
YOU ASS! CUT IT OUT!
SO WHY DON'T YOU GO PLAY WITH HER?
Twee Twoo
HEY, YOU KNOW-- SHE'S IN LOVE WITH YUTARO
RIGHT ABOUT THEN, A LITTLE BOY CAME BY WITH HIS MOTHER
GNAAAA!
ARE YOU PLAYING ALONE?

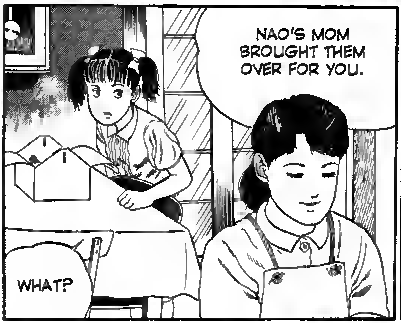
THANK YOU SO MUCH
I'LL BE BACK BEFORE IT GETS DARK
NO WAY! SHE GAVE IT TO ME BECAUSE I'M PLAYING WITH HIM
HEY, COME ON, KURIKO, GIVE US SOME CHOCOLATE!
URM I... I'M NAO.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, THEN?
SO COME ON, LET'S PLAY!

I KNOW, LET'S BUY SOME CHOCO-LATE!
WHATEVER CAN'T THEY SEE THEY'RE JUST AS LITTLE?!
AW, THIS IS THE PITS. LET'S GO SOMEWHERE COOL..
HAH! WHEN DID THIS PLAYGROUND BECOME A HANGOUT FOR LITTLE GIRLS AND BOYS?
YAHH, YAHH!
HMPH!
HEY, NAO, THE SWINGS ARE OPEN NOW WANNA SWING?
THE BOY BECAME VERY ATTACHED TO ME.

AW, LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!
AND THEN THE DAY AFTER THAT...
KURIKO
THE NEXT DAY HE CAME ON HIS OWN.
KURI-KO.
NO! I WANT TO PLAY WITH YOU!
URM, I REALLY CAN'T PLAY WITH YOU TODAY... I'VE GOT SOME-THING I WANT TO DO.
LET'S DO THE SWING! COME ON, THE SWING!
LET'S PLAY! PLEASE!
BUT I CAN'T TODAY


I'M HOME


COME OVER HERE. YOU'VE GOT SOME GOODIES
HI, KURI-KO


NAO'S MOM BROUGHT THEM OVER FOR YOU.
WHAT?

WOW, CAKES!

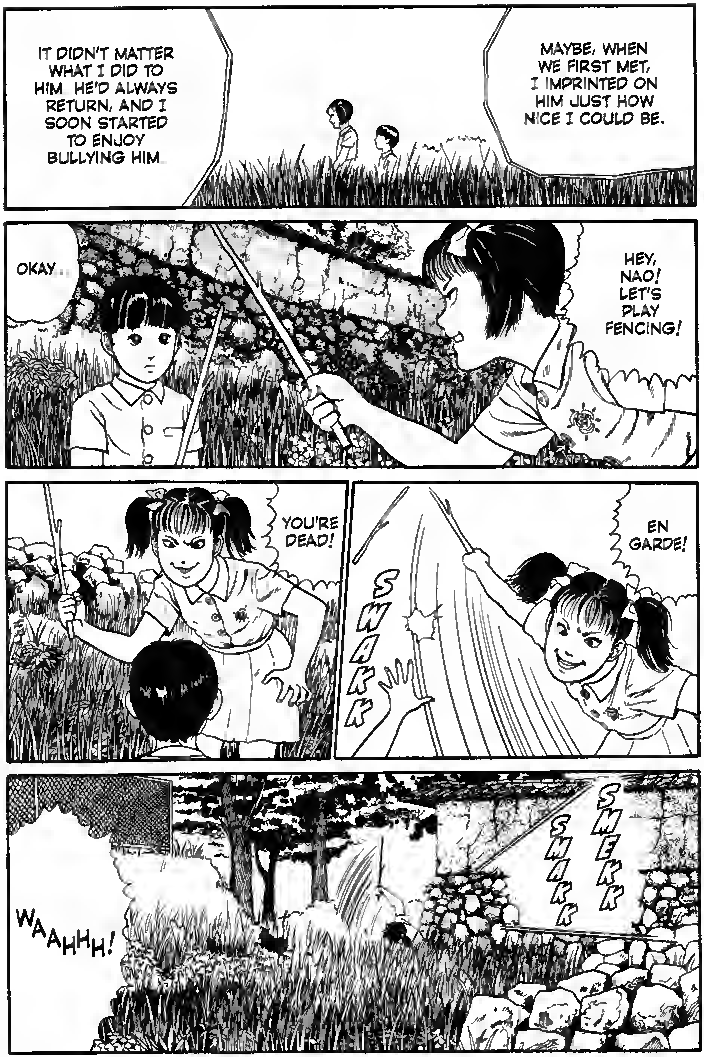
THEY'VE RECENTLY MOVED TO A NEW HOUSE NEAR THE PLAYGROUND, AND THE BOY HASN'T MADE ANY FRIENDS YET. SO SHE'S REALLY HAPPY YOU'VE BEEN NICE TO HIM
YOU KEEP ON PLAYING WITH HIM, OKAY?
SHE SAID YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING WITH HER SON

AND IN TIME, I STARTED TO HATE THE WAY HE'D CLING ONTO ME
AFTER THAT, EVERY TIME I WENT TO THE PLAYGROUND TO SEE YUTARO, I FOUND MYSELF OBLIGATED TO PLAY WITH NAO.
IT WAS AGGRA-VATING
WHAT IS IT?
HEY NAO, LET ME TELL YOU A SECRET
GIVE ME YOUR EAR...
UM... MY EAR IS... HUM-MING..
DID I SCARE YOU?
EEEEE!

LET ME CHECK YOUR EAR!
GLANCE
WHAT? IT'S HUM-MING?! YOU GOT A PROBLEM, THEN!
NOOO! GET THEM OUT!
NAO, HUMBUGS ARE REALLY SCARY. THEY GO IN YOUR EAR AND THEN EAT UP YOUR BRAIN!
OH, NO! THERE ARE HUMBUGS EVERY-WHERE!
AWW! IT HURTS!
FINE, I'LL DO MY BEST
GOOKK??
KURIKO, YOU WON'T HURT ME ANYMORE, WILL YOU? CAN WE PLAY LIKE WE USED TO?
BUT HE JUST KEPT ON COMING
HYA!
COOL!
WAHH
SO I STARTED BULLYING HIM
I THOUGHT EVENTUALLY HE'D LEAVE ME ALONE

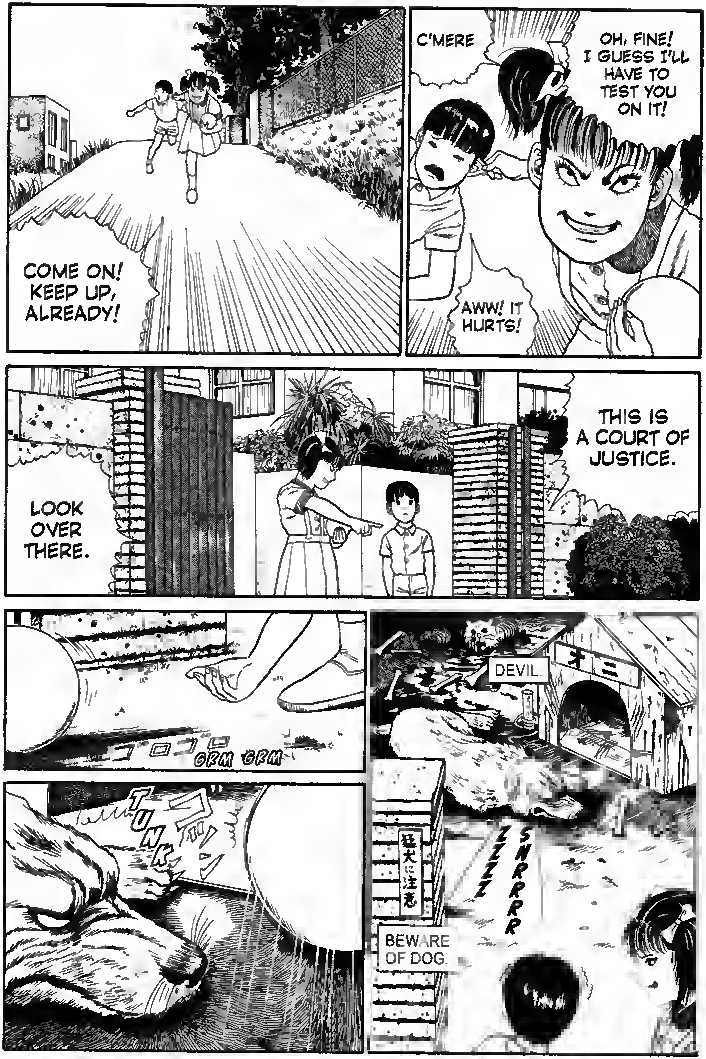
PEEP PEEP
PEEP PEEP
PEEP PEEP
PEEP PEEP
SIZZLE
KURIKO.. CAN I HAVE SOME WATER TOO?
SIP
SIP
SIP

I CAN'T DRINK THE GUTTER WATER
GO ON, DRINK IT!
OH, SURE YOU CAN!
NOOO! I CAN'T DRINK THAT
JUST DO IT!
SPLASH
WAHHH! WAHHH!


IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT I DID TO HIM. HE'D ALWAYS RETURN, AND I SOON STARTED TO ENJOY BULLYING HIM.
MAYBE, WHEN WE FIRST MET, I IMPRINTED ON HIM JUST HOW NICE I COULD BE.
OKAY...
HEY, NAO! LET'S PLAY FENCING!
YOU'RE DEAD!
SWAKK
EN GARDE!
SWEKK
SWAKK
WAAHHH!

COME ON! BE A BIG BOY!
BE BOLD! NOW, JUMP!
YOU DON'T DO IT, I WON'T PLAY WITH YOU ANYMORE!
I.. I'LL JUMP! I WILL!
WAAHHH!
YOU KNOW, HE'S ACTING WEIRD! HE INSISTS ON JUMPING DOWN FROM THERE!
YOU GOTTA STOP HIM!
WAAHHH!
NAO, WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
UH-OH
GOOD-NESS! DON'T DO THAT! THAT'S CRAZY!
I'LL BE RIGHT UP. JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

WAAHHH!
WAAHHH! MAMAA!
HMPH... MORE CHOCOLATE.
NAO, I WAS REALLY MAD TO SEE YOUR MOM YESTERDAY.
YOU DIDN'T TELL HER ANYTHING, DID YOU?
THE NEXT DAY, NAO DIDN'T SHOW UP TO PLAY WITH ME.
SO I WENT AND ASKED HIM TO COME.
UM, I DIDN'T SAY NOTHING.
ARE YOU SURE?


COME ON! KEEP UP, ALREADY!
C'MERE
OH, FINE! I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TEST YOU ON IT!
AWW! IT HURTS!
LOOK OVER THERE.
THIS IS A COURT OF JUSTICE.
DEVIL
SNRRRR
BEWARE OF DOG
狂犬に注意
GRM GRM
UNK

RRRRRRP
KURIKO I'M SCARED
GO ON, FETCH IT! IF YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH, THE DEVIL WILL LEAVE YOU ALONE
GRRRRR
GRAWL
GRAWL
GRAWL
GNAAHHH!
I'M SCARED, KURIKO
OH, JUST GO!

I RAN ALL THE WAY HOME... NOT LONG AFTER, HE MOVED AWAY.
I...I THINK HE WAS HURT PRETTY BADLY
AND?
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
IS THAT ALL?
I SEE...
SO YOU SEE WHY I'M SO NERVOUS ABOUT MY PAST?
YUTARO, I WAS TRULY A HORRIBLE CHILD...
THERE IS AN EPILOGUE TO THE STORY.
WELL... I GUESS I HAVE TO TELL YOU THE REST.
I...I BUMPED INTO NAO THE OTHER DAY.
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK A FEW ROAD BUMPS LIKE THAT COULD GET IN MY WAY?
IF YOU THINK I'D CHANGE MY MIND OVER THAT, YOU'RE NUTS. THAT WAS LONG AGO, AND THAT'S JUST THE WAY KIDS ARE

IT'S NAO.
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
IT IS KURIKO, ISN'T IT?
KURI-KO?
NAO...?
WHAT...?!
HE STILL SPOKE TO ME LIKE AN OLD FRIEND. DID HE FORGET?
YOU WANT TO GET SOME TEA?
AND, YOU KNOW, AFTER ALL I DID TO HIM...
I TURNED WHITE
WOW. IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU

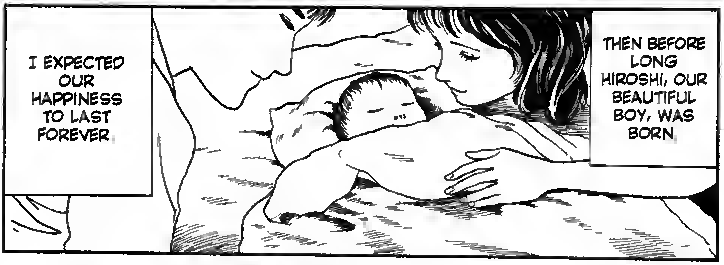
KURIKO, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL...YOU ALWAYS WERE A PRETTY GIRL
I'M SURPRISED, TOO... I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU IN A SUIT AND TIE.
...BUT I NEVER DREAMED I'D SEE YOU AGAIN.
MY JOB GOT ME TO MOVE BACK HERE...
IS THE PLAY-GROUND STILL STAND-ING?
YOU GAVE ME LOTS OF WONDERFUL MEMO-RIES
HOW... SWEET OF YOU
OH...
I STILL HAVE A LOT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
HEY, SOMETIME WE'VE GOT TO GO VISIT THE PLACE TOGETHER.
NAO..
YEAH..IT HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.

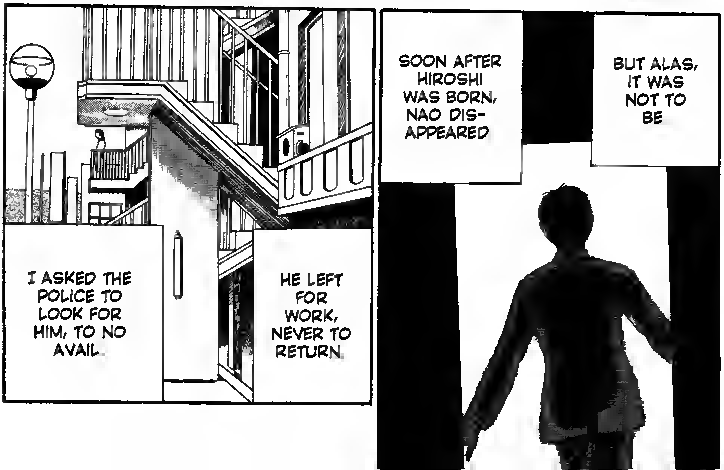
I'M GLAD I'VE COME BACK.
AMAZING NOTHING'S CHANGED AT ALL.
YOU USED TO PULL MY EAR AS WE STROLLED ALONG IT.
EVEN THE SLOPED ROAD IS INTACT.
IT'S JUST THAT...YOU WERE SO CUTE...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU...
REALLY?! THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.
I...I'M SORRY.
YOU WERE QUITE THE TOMBOY.

BACK THEN YOU WERE THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD PLAY WITH ME.
YOU KNOW, I WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU, KURIKO
....
THAT'S WHY I KNEW IT WAS YOU, THE MOMENT I SAW YOU
ALL THESE YEARS, I'VE NEVER STOPPED THINKING ABOUT YOU...
I HAVE
MANY TIMES.
KURIKO... YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE, HAVE YOU?
YUTA-RO...
IN THAT INSTANT, I WAS FREED FROM THE WEIGHT OF ALL THESE YEARS OF GUILT.

NAO?
HE SHOULD BE HERE ANY TIME NOW.
IN FACT, I'M SEEING HIM TODAY
WHAT?!
YUTARO... I'M TRULY SORRY
YOU SEE, I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH NAO.

NAO AND I HAD A WEDDING-- JUST THE TWO OF US, ALONE.
ONCE YUTARO HAD LEFT...

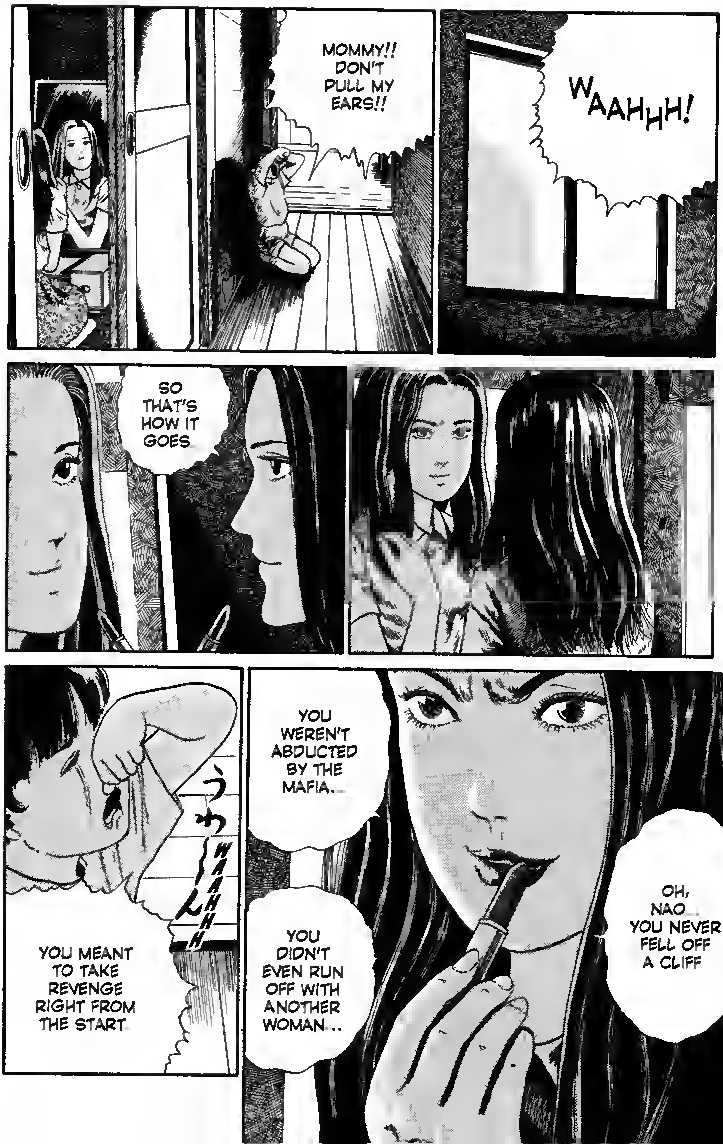

I EXPECTED OUR HAPPINESS TO LAST FOREVER.
THEN BEFORE LONG HIROSHI, OUR BEAUTIFUL BOY, WAS BORN.


I ASKED THE POLICE TO LOOK FOR HIM, TO NO AVAIL.
HE LEFT FOR WORK, NEVER TO RETURN.
SOON AFTER HIROSHI WAS BORN, NAO DIS-APPEARED
BUT ALAS, IT WAS NOT TO BE

DON'T WORRY, THERE ARE PLENTY OF SINGLE MOTHERS IN THE WORLD
MOM... NO, I TOLD YOU I'M NOT LEAVING THIS CONDO. THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE NAO WILL COME BACK!
MONTHS PASSED
THEN FOUR YEARS
IS DINNER READY YET?
IN A MINUTE. JUST HANG ON
I'M HUN-GRY!
MOM-MY!
HIROSHI, PLEASE BE GOOD!
MOMMY!
I'M HUNGRY!
MOM-MY!

MOMMY! I WANT TO EAT!
LOOK, I'M TIRED REMEMBER, I WORK EVERY DAY.
MOMMY, WHO'S NAO?
OH, COME ON, NAO QUIT COM-PLAINING AND EAT!
MOMMY, I WANT AN OMELET.
WHAT ABOUT CURRY RICE?
MOMMY... FISH AGAIN?

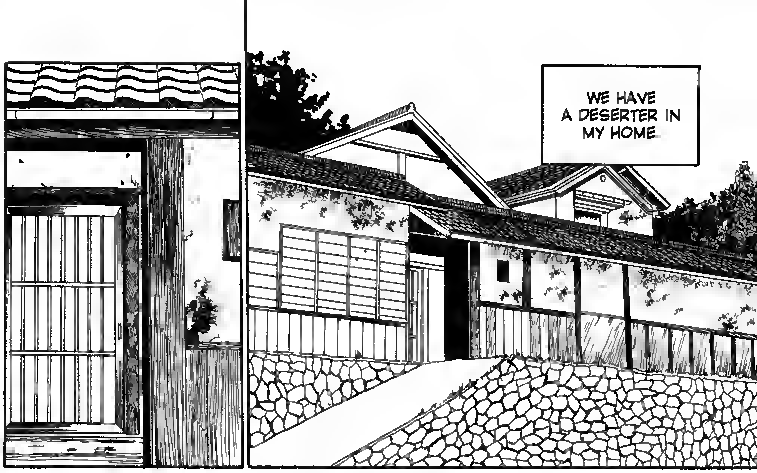
IN FACT, YOU'RE HIS SPITTING IMAGE.
I'M SORRY... I MEAN HIROSHI... YOU LOOK SO MUCH LIKE YOUR FATHER, WHEN HE WAS YOUR AGE.
MOMMY...
EVEN SO, HE WOULDN'T STAY AWAY FROM ME
HE WAS SO CUTE WHEN I BULLIED HIM. IT WAS FUN...
YOU KNOW... MOMMY USED TO BULLY LITTLE NAO
SOMEHOW I FEEL LIKE BULLYING HIM AGAIN.
AHH... I WONDER WHAT NAO IS UP TO NOW.
MAYBE HE WANTED MOMMY TO BULLY HIM
TAP TAP トトトン
TAP TAP トトトン
AND SOMEHOW, MOMMY COULDN'T HELP HERSELF

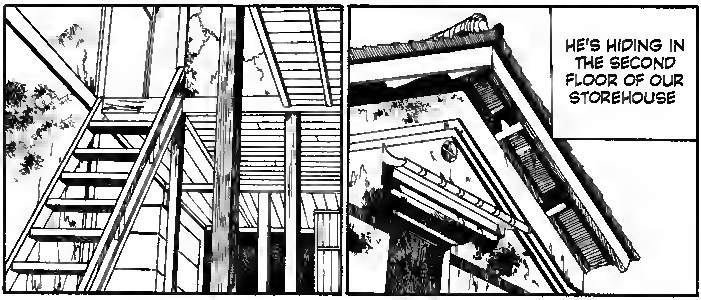

MOMMY!! DON'T PULL MY EARS!!
WAAHHH!
SO THAT'S HOW IT GOES.
YOU WEREN'T ABDUCTED BY THE MAFIA...
OH, NAO... YOU NEVER FELL OFF A CLIFF
うぅ
WAHHH
YOU MEANT TO TAKE REVENGE RIGHT FROM THE START.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN RUN OFF WITH ANOTHER WOMAN...

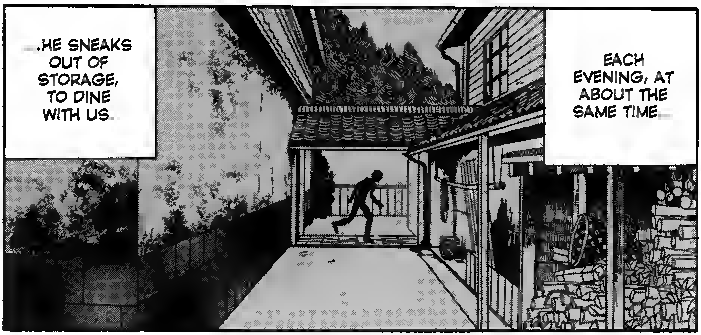
NAO! HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THAT UP? A BOY SHOULDN'T CRY LIKE A BABY.
BUT I'M NOT NAO ..
SNFF... SNFF...
SO FINE! ALL RIGHT, I'LL PLAY WITH YOU...
LET'S GO OFF TO THE PLAY-GROUND
YOU NASTY LITTLE BOY . YOU COME TO SEE ME, KNOWING I WANT TO PLAY WITH YUTARO.
ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS GET IN THE WAY
THAT MAKES IT EVEN BETTER.
MOMMY, IT'S ALREADY NIGHT-TIME
I'LL PLAY WITH YOU THERE

THE BULLY / THE END

脱走兵のいる家
A DESERTER IN THE HOUSE
取材協力●吉村洋一
RESEARCH ASSISTED BY YOICHI YOSHIMURA

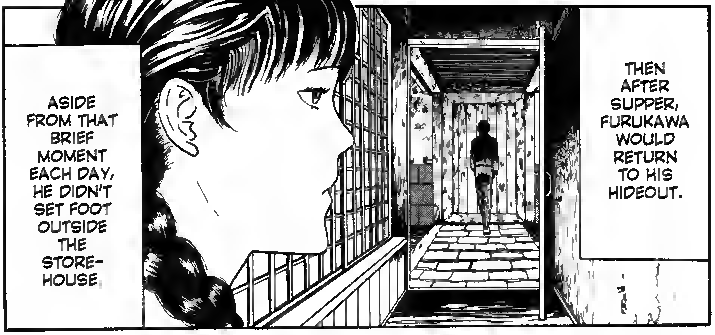

WE HAVE A DESERTER IN MY HOME.

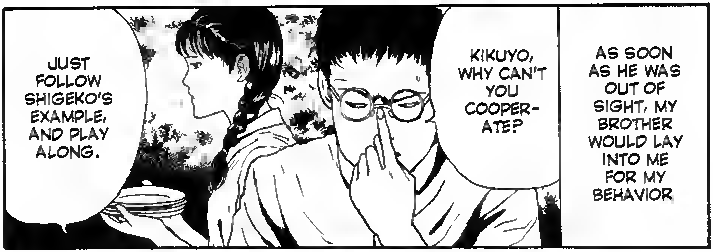

HE'S HIDING IN THE SECOND FLOOR OF OUR STOREHOUSE


...HE SNEAKS OUT OF STORAGE, TO DINE WITH US.
EACH EVENING, AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME...

WHEN SO CONFRONTED BY MY BROTHER, HE WOULD SCRATCH HIS HEAD AND FORCE A SMILE TO HIS PALE FACE
GOOD EVENING, ADERA
HEY, FURUKAWA HOPE NO ONE SPOTTED YOU, DESERTER
SHIGEKO KIKUYO
AS ALWAYS, I'M GRATEFUL.
HEY, HEY DON'T FUSS ABOUT THAT NOW
IF THEY FIND ME HERE...WELL, WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'LL DO TO YOU
I KNOW WHAT A BURDEN IT MUST BE, HIDING A TRAITOR LIKE ME.
I MEAN, IT'S WAR OUT THERE. I KNOW HOW HARD YOU'RE WORKING JUST TO SUPPORT YOURSELVES IN THIS MESS...

AS FOR YOU, I CAN'T IMAGINE JUST EATING ONE MEAL A DAY.
REMEMBER, WE'RE WAY OUT IN THE BOONDOCKS. THERE'S NO WORRY ABOUT FOOD AROUND HERE.
THANK YOU, SHIGEKO.
AS IT IS, YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND.
LISTEN, FURUKAWA, IF YOU WERE A STRANGER YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE NOW.
ADERA... THANK YOU.
WELL...
HEY, SHIGEKO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR WAR STRATEGY THIS TIME AROUND?
YOU KNOW, FURUKAWA, THE JAPANESE FORCES HAVE FINALLY LANDED IN AMERICA.
REALLY?! I HAD NO IDEA JAPAN WAS THAT STRONG.
隣組
HEH...HEE HEE...YES, THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.
I...I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KIKUYO? DO YOU CONCUR?
AFTER ALL, WE DID CONQUER ASIA AMERICA CAN'T BE THAT MUCH HARDER
OH, YEAH?


ASIDE FROM THAT BRIEF MOMENT EACH DAY, HE DIDN'T SET FOOT OUTSIDE THE STORE-HOUSE.
THEN AFTER SUPPER, FURUKAWA WOULD RETURN TO HIS HIDEOUT.


JUST FOLLOW SHIGEKO'S EXAMPLE, AND PLAY ALONG.
KIKUYO, WHY CAN'T YOU COOPER-ATE?
AS SOON AS HE WAS OUT OF SIGHT, MY BROTHER WOULD LAY INTO ME FOR MY BEHAVIOR

QUICK, FURUKAWA! THE STORE-HOUSE!
ONCE A MONTH, THE MILITARY POLICE WOULD PAY US A VISIT.
BAM
THIS IS THE MILITARY POLICE!
GO ON, OPEN UP!
WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE US ALONE?

I SAID OPEN UP!
OTHERWISE, I'LL BREAK IT DOWN!
YES, YES! I'M COMING!
HELLO WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP YOU?
YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME. WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THERE?
WELL, I'M SORRY YOU SEE, IT'S A BIG HOUSE, AND
YOU WOULDN'T BE HIDING A DESERTER, WOULD YOU?!
WHY, OF COURSE NOT!
WE'RE CURRENTLY ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A MAN NAMED SABURO FURUKAWA!
THIS MAN IS A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL. AS SOON AS WE FIND HIM, HE IS TO BE EXECUTED!
NO SIR, NEVER HEARD OF HIM!

WELL, I'LL STILL HAVE TO LOOK AROUND!
FINE BY ME!
LISTEN, WE'VE RECEIVED A TIP! SOMEBODY SPOTTED HIM HERE!
NO, I TELL YOU THERE MUST'VE BEEN SOME MISTAKE!
YEAH, THANKS THAT WAS A GREAT PERFOR-MANCE
I BET HE'S SHAKING IN HIS BOOTS BY NOW.
THAT SHOULD DO FOR THE NIGHT, DON'T YOU THINK?
NEXT TIME I'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING NEW, TO FREAK HIM OUT EVEN BETTER
YOU'RE RIGHT . STICKING TO TOO TIGHT A SCRIPT MIGHT CLUE HIM IN
YOU KNOW, YOU REPEAT THE SAME OLD LINES EVERY TIME. MAYBE YOU SHOULD IMPROVISE A LITTLE

WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT A FAKE BEARD?
HO HO HO. THAT'D SURE MAKE YOU FORMI-DABLE.
HERE, OSHIMA. I APPRECIATE YOU COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE. HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING FROM US
NOT A PROBLEM AT ALL... YOUR GARDEN PRODUCES THE BEST VEGETABLES AROUND.
THE COUNTRY'S BEEN RECOVER-ING RAPIDLY, SINCE THE UPHEAVAL IN KOREA.
IT'S FUNNY. FURUKAWA IS THE ONLY ONE WHO'S STILL AT WAR.
ANYWAY, ADERA, SHIGEKO, TAKE CARE.
AUGUST 15, 1945...GEE, IS IT EIGHT YEARS ALREADY? AND EVEN NOW HE'S STILL OBLIVIOUS OF THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE.
YOU TOO. I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
GOOD NIGHT, KIKUYO
WHO KNEW OSHIMA WOULD CONTINUE PLAYING HIS PART FOR SO LONG
WELL... YOU KNOW, HE STILL HOLDS A GRUDGE AGAINST FURUKAWA

*UPHEAVAL IN KOREA THE KOREAN WAR TOOK PLACE FROM 1950 TO 1953, AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE COLD WAR BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION.

OF COURSE, IT WAS FURUKAWA'S IDEA.
ACTUALLY... THE PAIR OF THEM DESERTED THE ARMY TOGETHER.
AND YET OSHIMA WAS THE ONE WHO WOUND UP BEING CAUGHT. FURUKAWA JUST RAN, WITHOUT HELPING HIM.
OH... I NEVER TOLD YOU?
GRUDGE?
SO... THIS IS HIS RETRIBU-TION.
AS A DESERTER, OSHIMA WAS SENTENCED TO JUEISO*
AND HE WAS SENT TO THE MOST VIOLENT FRONTLINE.
NO?
YOU'D MAKE A GOOD COUPLE.
OSHIMA TOLD ME HE WANTS TO TAKE YOU AS HIS BRIDE.
OF COURSE... THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON.
SHIGEKO, DO YOU KNOW WHY HE COMES EVERY MONTH?

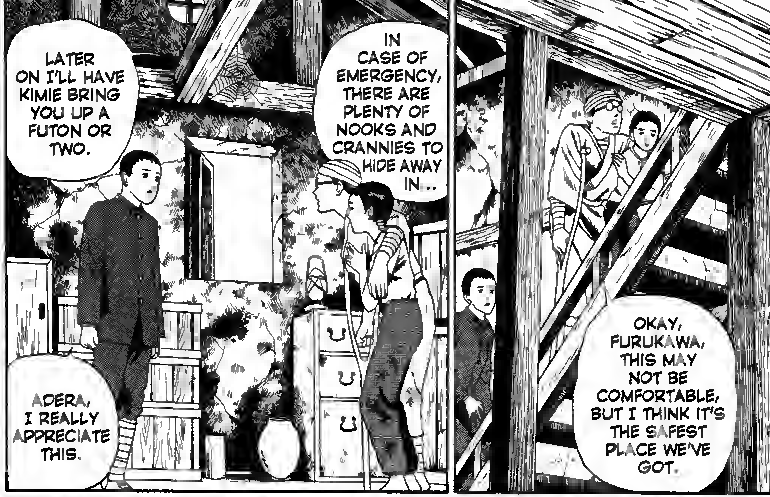
*JUEISO: ONE OF THE SEVEREST PUNISHMENTS DEALT BY THE WARTIME ARMY

WHY.. WHY DO YOU AVOID ME SO?
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME SAY SOME-THING...
SOON AFTER THE WAR ENDED, I SAW HER CRYING IN FRONT OF THE STORE-HOUSE
I GET THE FEELING SHIGEKO MIGHT BE IN LOVE WITH FURUKAWA.
COME TO THINK OF IT..
FURUKAWA, PLEASE...PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR.
AFTER THAT, I NEVER SAW HER CRY AGAIN.
IS IT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T FORGET ABOUT KIMIE? BUT SHE'S DEAD AND I'M ALIVE! WHAT ABOUT MY FEELINGS?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THIS UP?!
BROTH-ER!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO SHUT FURU-KAWA UP IN THAT STORE-HOUSE?!
THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE HARDER IT WAS TO TOLERATE.
SHIGEKO.. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HIM?

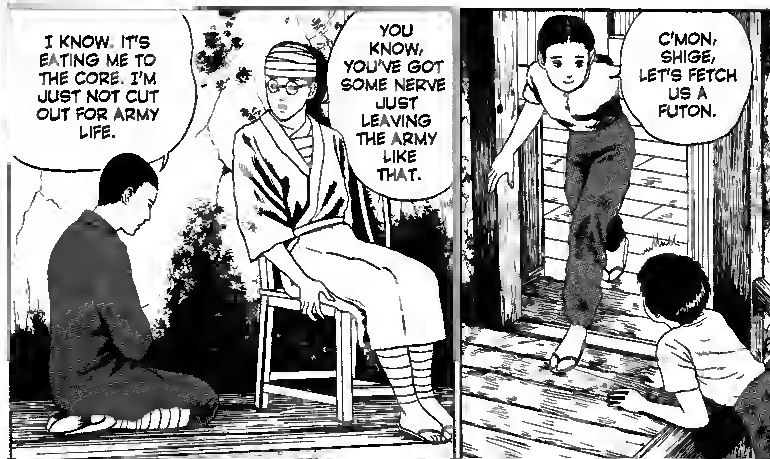
THIS ISN'T NORMAL!
OH, WHO CARES IF HE DOES! YOU'RE BOTH OUT OF YOUR MINDS!
SHH! DON'T SHOUT LIKE THAT! WHAT IF HE HEARS?!
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO DROP THIS STUPID FARCE?!
MAKING UP LIES ABOUT THE JAPANESE FORCES LANDING IN AMERICA...
HOW CAN YOU KEEP FURUKAWA IN THE DARK FOR YEAR AFTER YEAR? HE'S TRUSTING YOU! RELYING ON YOU FOR EVERY-THING!
STICKING OUTDATED WARTIME SLOGANS ALL OVER THE WALL...
LET GO!!
KIKU-YO...
SISTER, LET GO!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!
KIKUYO, JUST SHUT UP!

BUT...DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING AT ALL FOR KIMIE? YOUR SISTER DIED WHEN SHE WAS ONLY EIGHTEEN
KIKUYO, LISTEN...SURE, I REALIZE HOW ABSURD THIS MUST LOOK
REMEMBER, IT'S HIS FAULT SHE'S DEAD NOW
KEEPING HIM SHUT IN IS ALL WE CAN DO FOR HER... THAT'S ALL THE REVENGE WE'LL GET
RIGHT... KIMIE...
UNABLE TO ENDURE THE EXTREME WARTIME DISCIPLINE, HE TOOK FLIGHT.
IN THE SUMMER OF 1944, FURUKAWA DESERTED THE ARMY
AND HE FOUND HIS WAY TO HIS FRIEND--MY BROTHER.
IT HAPPENED NINE YEARS AGO...

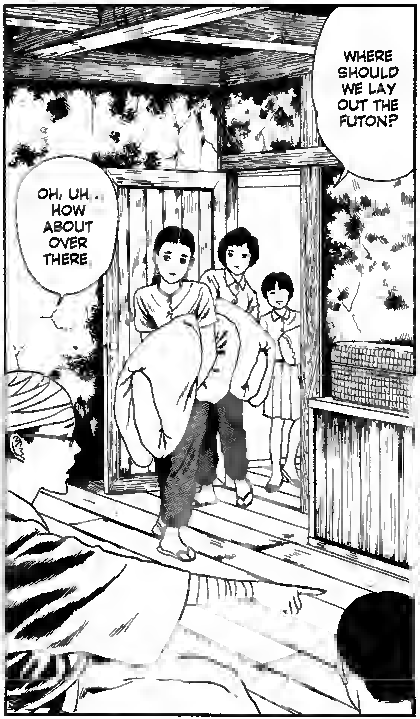
ADERA
FURU-KAWA!
WITH OUR PARENTS GONE, THE FOUR OF US LIVED TOGETHER, TENDING OUR FARM.
FURUKAWA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU JOINED THE ARMY.
MY BROTHER COULDN'T ABANDON HIS FRIEND, SO HE CHOSE TO HIDE HIM IN THE STORE-HOUSE.
THE WAR WAS INTENSIFYING, AND FOOD WAS BECOMING SCARCE EVEN FOR FARMERS LIKE US, THINGS WEREN'T SO EASY TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, OUR BROTHER--THE PILLAR OF THE FAMILY--WAS STILL RECOVERING FROM HIS INJURIES
HELP ME HIDE..
PLEASE

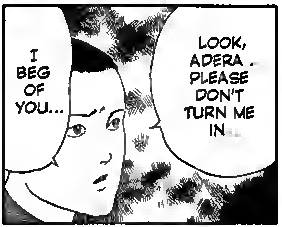

LATER ON I'LL HAVE KIMIE BRING YOU UP A FUTON OR TWO.
ADERA, I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS.
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, THERE ARE PLENTY OF NOOKS AND CRANNIES TO HIDE AWAY IN...
OKAY, FURUKAWA, THIS MAY NOT BE COMFORTABLE, BUT I THINK IT'S THE SAFEST PLACE WE'VE GOT.

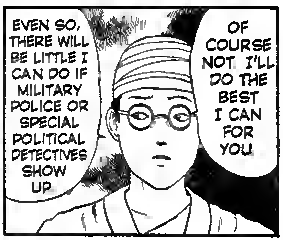
IT'S ALL RIGHT PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
AND, KIMIE, THANK YOU FOR THE TROUBLE...

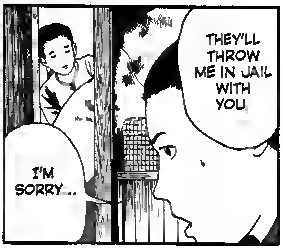

I KNOW. IT'S EATING ME TO THE CORE. I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR ARMY LIFE.
YOU KNOW, YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE JUST LEAVING THE ARMY LIKE THAT.
C'MON, SHIGE, LET'S FETCH US A FUTON.

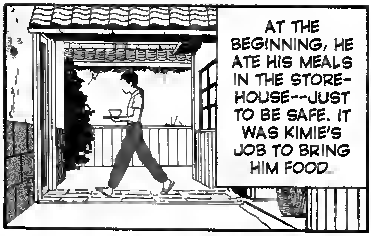
YEAH... I FELL FROM A PRETTY BIG HEIGHT BACK AT THE FACTORY.
IS IT THAT BAD?
I'M DYING TO GET OUT THERE AND FIGHT MYSELF, BUT WHAT WITH THE INJURY AND ALL...
OH, DON'T BE SO PATHETIC. RIGHT NOW IS THE TIME WHEN WE ALL NEED TO BAND TOGETHER AND FIGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY

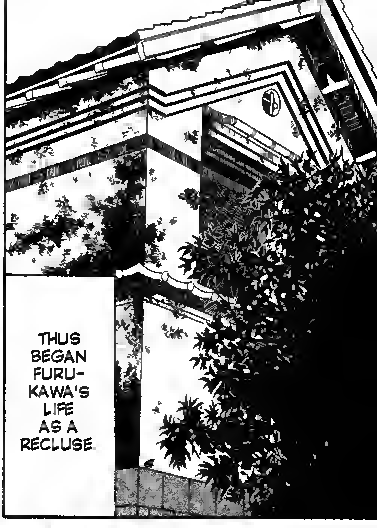

WHERE SHOULD WE LAY OUT THE FUTON?
OH, UH... HOW ABOUT OVER THERE.

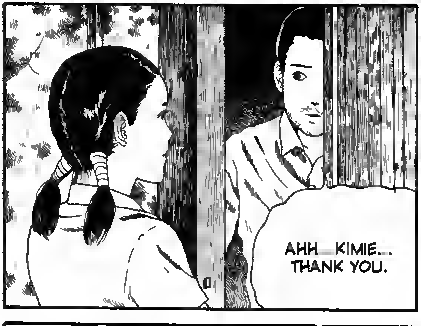

I BEG OF YOU...
LOOK, ADERA. PLEASE DON'T TURN ME IN.

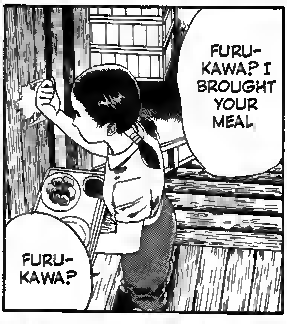

EVEN SO, THERE WILL BE LITTLE I CAN DO IF MILITARY POLICE OR SPECIAL POLITICAL DETECTIVES SHOW UP.
OF COURSE NOT. I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN FOR YOU.

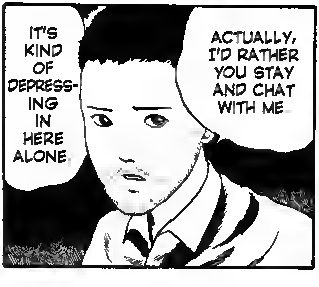

I'M SORRY...
THEY'LL THROW ME IN JAIL WITH YOU.

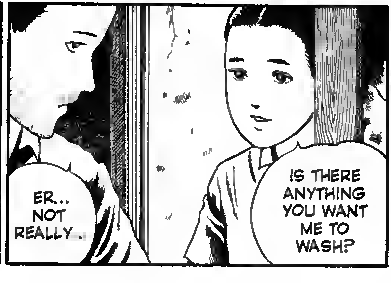

AT THE BEGINNING, HE ATE HIS MEALS IN THE STORE-HOUSE--JUST TO BE SAFE. IT WAS KIMIE'S JOB TO BRING HIM FOOD.


THUS BEGAN FURU-KAWA'S LIFE AS A RECLUSE.


AHH... KIMIE... THANK YOU.


FURU-KAWA? I BROUGHT YOUR MEAL.
FURU-KAWA?


ACTUALLY, I'D RATHER YOU STAY AND CHAT WITH ME.
IT'S KIND OF DEPRESS-ING IN HERE ALONE.


IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO WASH?
ER... NOT REALLY.

WELL... IF YOU THINK I'LL BE OF SOME COM-PANY
ER... THAT IS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
AND EVERY TIME SHE BROUGHT HIM FOOD, SHE SPENT A LITTLE MORE TIME IN THE STOREHOUSE.

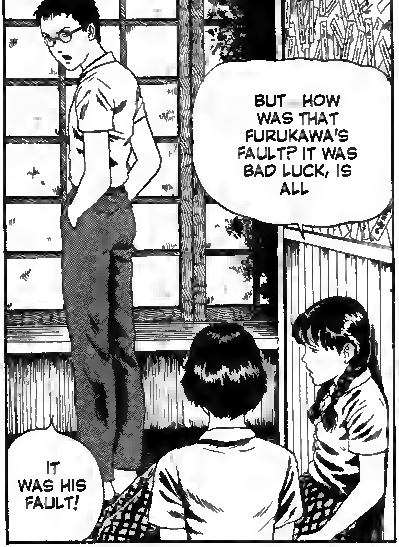
I'VE BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
MARCH 10, 1945
WHAT DAY IS IT TODAY?
I WONDER HOW LONG I HAVE TO LIVE LIKE THIS...
LIKE A BEATEN DOG.
YOU MUST THINK I'M PATHETIC ..
DON'T SAY THAT...
ALL DAY LONG THEY'D MAKE US SIT AT OUR DESKS AND PRETEND TO RIDE A BIKE...
EVERY DAY, THEY STRUCK ME. . IN THE ARMY, THAT IS .
OR MIMIC ANIMALS OR INSECTS
CICADAS-- THOSE WERE THE WORST, BY FAR
EVERYONE IN THE GROUP, EVERYONE PUNISHED FOR THE SMALLEST OF MISTAKES.

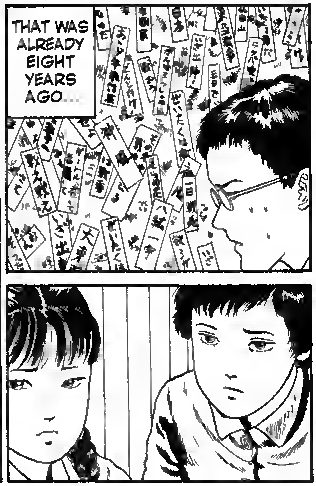
SHE'S GLUED TO FURUKAWA IN HIS ROOM!
SHIGE-KO? ER.. CAN YOU CLARIFY THAT?
BROTHER, KIMIE IS ACTING LIKE A SLUT AGAIN
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?!
KIMIE!
FURU-KAWA!
I.. I'M SORRY, ADERA.
GET OUT!
OH.. BROTH-ER...

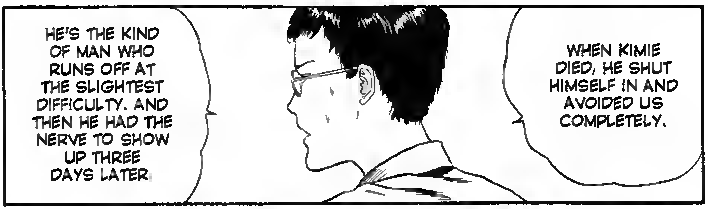
I BELIEVE YOU, BUT .
FURUKAWA, CONSIDER YOUR POSITION A DESERTER, WHEN OUR COUNTRY IS IN CRISIS.
WE WERE JUST TALKING BELIEVE ME
IT'S MY FAULT.. DON'T BLAME KIMIE
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO CHAT WITH WOMEN, HOW ABOUT YOU SPEND IT THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY?
WERE I NOT A CRIPPLE, YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE I WOULD'VE VOLUNTEERED MY SERVICES LONG AGO!
AND THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR MY SISTER!
HAVE YOU NO SHAME? IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR A SOCIAL OUTCAST LIKE YOU TO FLIRT WITH A GIRL IN THE BROAD DAYLIGHT
BROTHER, YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO TALK TO FURUKAWA THAT WAY.
WHAT ?!
HOW SLY! HOW VERY CUNNING! AND YOU CALL YOURSELF JAPANESE?!
NOW WHAT'S THAT LOOK?!
KIMIE!! WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?!
YOU SHAMELESS TART I FORBID YOU TO COME ANYWHERE NEAR THIS ROOM AGAIN!

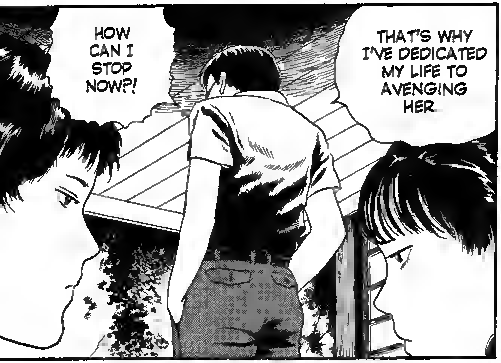
SLAPP
YOU SHUT UP!
ARE YOU SUGGESTING I DELIBERATELY HURT MYSELF?!
NO, IT'S NOT ME IT'S EVERYONE ELSE BACK AT THE VILLAGE
WHICH WAY IS THAT?!
YOU KNOW THE RUMORS
THEY SAY YOU GOT INJURED JUST TO AVOID THE DRAFT.
AH, SISTER
HEY! KIMIE! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

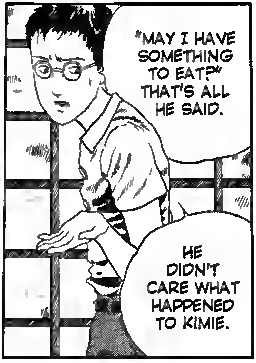
BATTA
BATTA
BATTA
SISTER!
AS MISFORTUNE WOULD HAVE IT, AN AMERICAN FIGHTER APPEARED ABOVE HER AT THAT VERY MOMENT.
WHERRRM
SIS-TER!
MY SISTER DIED ON THE SPOT.
SISTER SISTER!
THAT NIGHT I REMEMBER MY BROTHER POUNDING WITH RAGE ON THE STORE-HOUSE DOOR.
FURUKAWA!! COME OUT, BASTARD!
YOU FREAKIN' KILLED KIMIE!!
SINCE THAT NIGHT, FURUKAWA HAS LOCKED THE DOOR TIGHT AND REFUSED TO LET US IN...
FOR OUR PART, WE WOULD HARDLY SET FOOT IN THE STORE-HOUSE


BUT... HOW WAS THAT FURUKAWA'S FAULT? IT WAS BAD LUCK, IS ALL
IT WAS HIS FAULT!

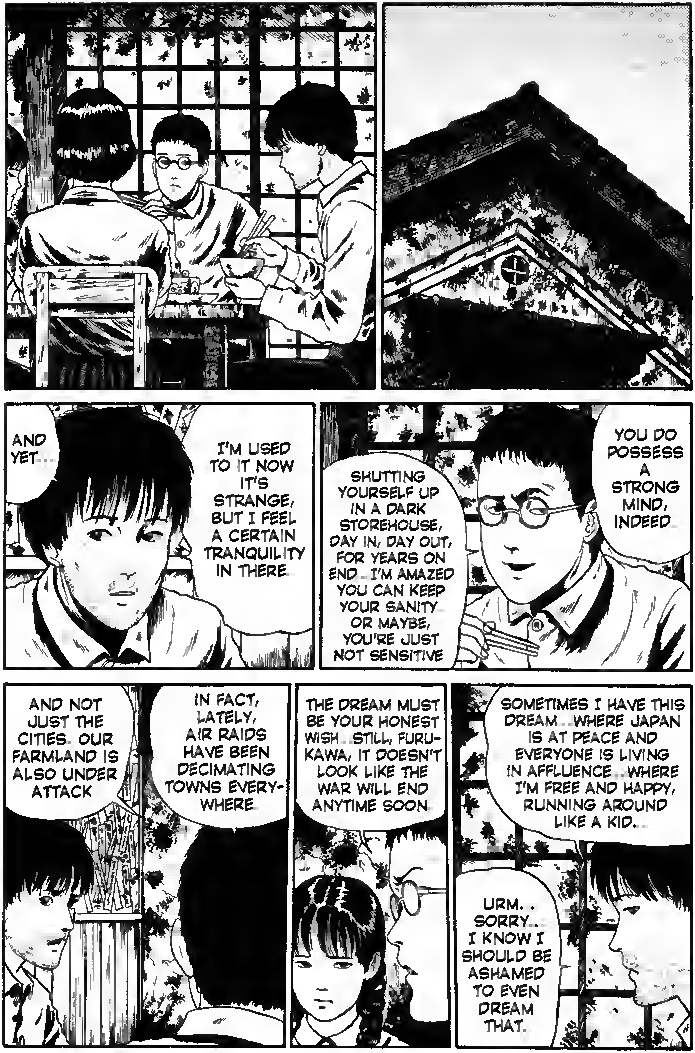

THAT WAS ALREADY EIGHT YEARS AGO...

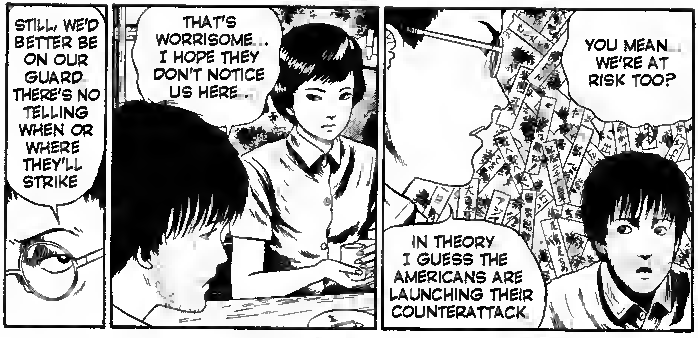

HE'S THE KIND OF MAN WHO RUNS OFF AT THE SLIGHTEST DIFFICULTY. AND THEN HE HAD THE NERVE TO SHOW UP THREE DAYS LATER.
WHEN KIMIE DIED, HE SHUT HIMSELF IN AND AVOIDED US COMPLETELY.

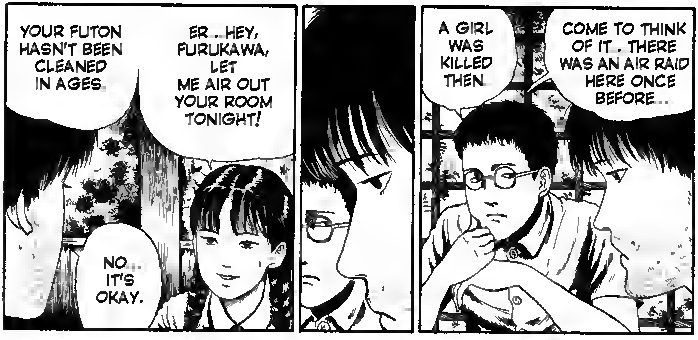

HOW CAN I STOP NOW?!
THAT'S WHY I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO AVENGING HER.

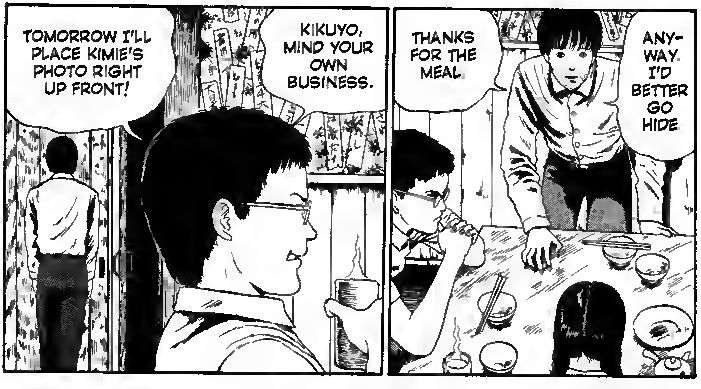

"MAY I HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT?" THAT'S ALL HE SAID.
HE DIDN'T CARE WHAT HAPPENED TO KIMIE.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE SAW FIREWORKS? IT WAS SO LONG AGO.
THEY'RE HAVING FIREWORKS AT THE VILLAGE.
ONE MONTH LATER
THAT'LL SURE FREAK HIM OUT.
LET'S TELL HIM IT'S BOMBING!
WHEN THE FIRE-WORKS START
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
OKAY, LET'S DO THAT.
THERE'S AN IDEA!
YOU KNOW THAT BIG IRON POT OUT IN THE YARD?
WE CAN CALL THAT AN AIR-RAID SHELTER AND SHOVE HIM IN.
WHAT FUN!


AND YET...
I'M USED TO IT NOW IT'S STRANGE, BUT I FEEL A CERTAIN TRANQUILITY IN THERE.
SHUTTING YOURSELF UP IN A DARK STOREHOUSE, DAY IN, DAY OUT, FOR YEARS ON END...I'M AMAZED YOU CAN KEEP YOUR SANITY. OR MAYBE, YOU'RE JUST NOT SENSITIVE.
YOU DO POSSESS A STRONG MIND, INDEED.
AND NOT JUST THE CITIES. OUR FARMLAND IS ALSO UNDER ATTACK.
IN FACT, LATELY, AIR RAIDS HAVE BEEN DECIMATING TOWNS EVERYWHERE.
THE DREAM MUST BE YOUR HONEST WISH...STILL, FURUKAWA, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE WAR WILL END ANYTIME SOON.
SOMETIMES I HAVE THIS DREAM...WHERE JAPAN IS AT PEACE AND EVERYONE IS LIVING IN AFFLUENCE...WHERE I'M FREE AND HAPPY, RUNNING AROUND LIKE A KID...
URM... SORRY... I KNOW I SHOULD BE ASHAMED TO EVEN DREAM THAT.


STILL, WE'D BETTER BE ON OUR GUARD. THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN OR WHERE THEY'LL STRIKE
THAT'S WORRISOME... I HOPE THEY DON'T NOTICE US HERE...
YOU MEAN... WE'RE AT RISK TOO?
IN THEORY I GUESS THE AMERICANS ARE LAUNCHING THEIR COUNTERATTACK.


YOUR FUTON HASN'T BEEN CLEANED IN AGES.
ER.. HEY, FURUKAWA, LET ME AIR OUT YOUR ROOM TONIGHT!
NO... IT'S OKAY.
A GIRL WAS KILLED THEN.
COME TO THINK OF IT.. THERE WAS AN AIR RAID HERE ONCE BEFORE...


TOMORROW I'LL PLACE KIMIE'S PHOTO RIGHT UP FRONT!
KIKUYO, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
ANY-WAY. I'D BETTER GO HIDE.

ヒュー
SHREEE
ドン
POOM
バチバチバチ
CLAP CLAP CLAP
ドン
POOM
....
YOU BET!
YOU ALL READY?
FURU-KAWA!
ドン
POOM
THEN LET'S GO!

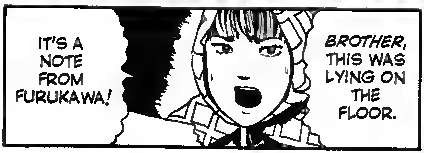
YOU WANNA DIE OR WHAT?!
FURU-KAWA! OPEN UP!
THE AMERICANS ARE ATTACKING!
FURUKAWA! COME ON OUT! IT'S AN AIR RAID!
LET'S HIDE IN THE BACKYARD
SHREEE
COME ON, FURU-KAWA!
....
FURU-KAWA! WE'VE GOT B-29s SWARMING ALL OVER US!
CAN'T YOU HEAR THE EXPLO-SIONS?
WEIRD .. IS HE ASLEEP?
IT'S DANGER-OUS HERE
ドド
POOM POOM

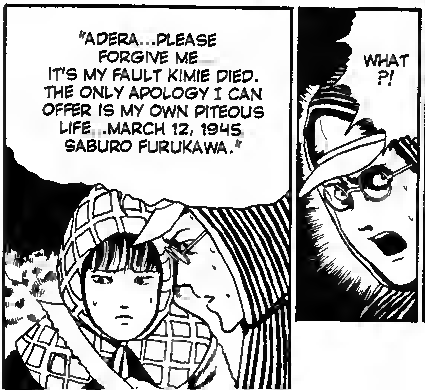
KRAKR
GOD, HOW ANNOYING HERE, I'LL BREAK IT DOWN. STEP ASIDE
I BET HE'S PETRIFIED, LIKE A CHILD.
PAMM
PAMM
AH!
SURE IS MUSTY..
KYAHH!
YOU FOOL! NO NEED TO HANG YOURSELF FOR AN AIR RAID!
OH, NO!

WHA- WHAT THE.. HELL?
WHO'S THIS?

FURU- KAWA!

WHOA...


IT'S A NOTE FROM FURUKAWA!
BROTHER, THIS WAS LYING ON THE FLOOR.

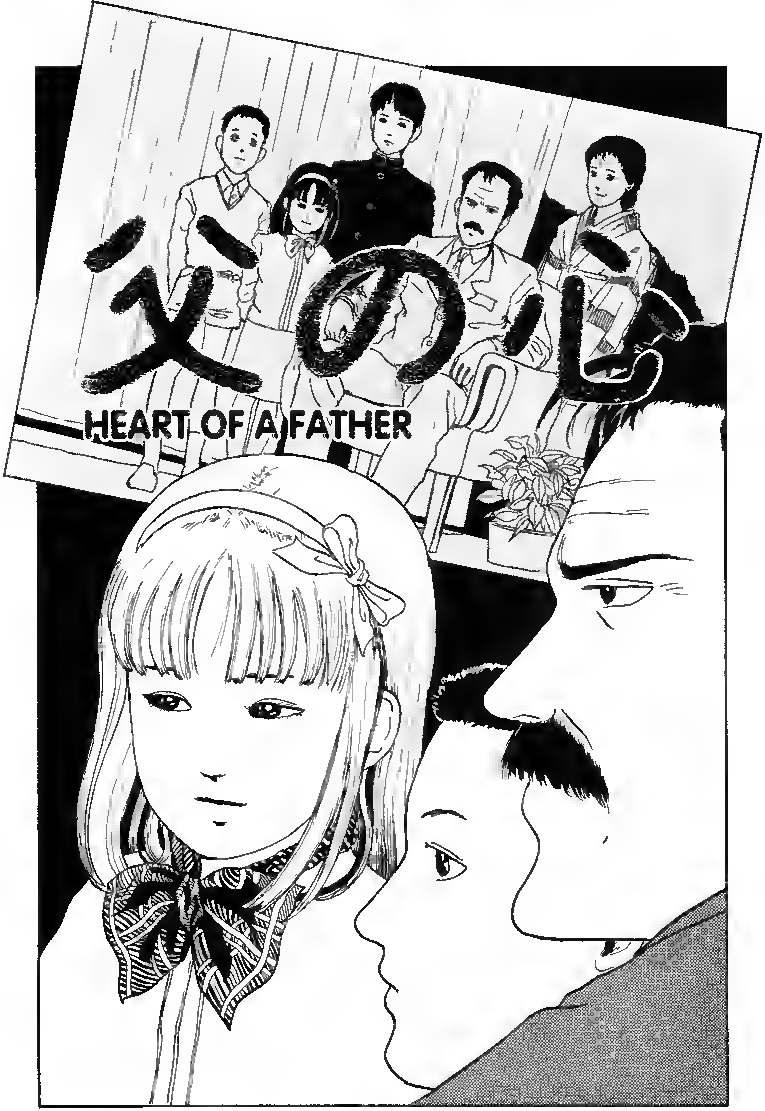

"ADERA...PLEASE FORGIVE ME IT'S MY FAULT KIMIE DIED. THE ONLY APOLOGY I CAN OFFER IS MY OWN PITEOUS LIFE ..MARCH 12, 1945 SABURO FURUKAWA."
WHAT ?!

THAT'S...TWO DAYS AFTER KIMIE DIED
MARCH 12, 1945?
ER... WHAT DOES THAT... MEAN?
ヒュー
SHREEEE
IT SEEMS HE DIED EIGHT YEARS AGO.
ドン
POOM
ドン
POOM

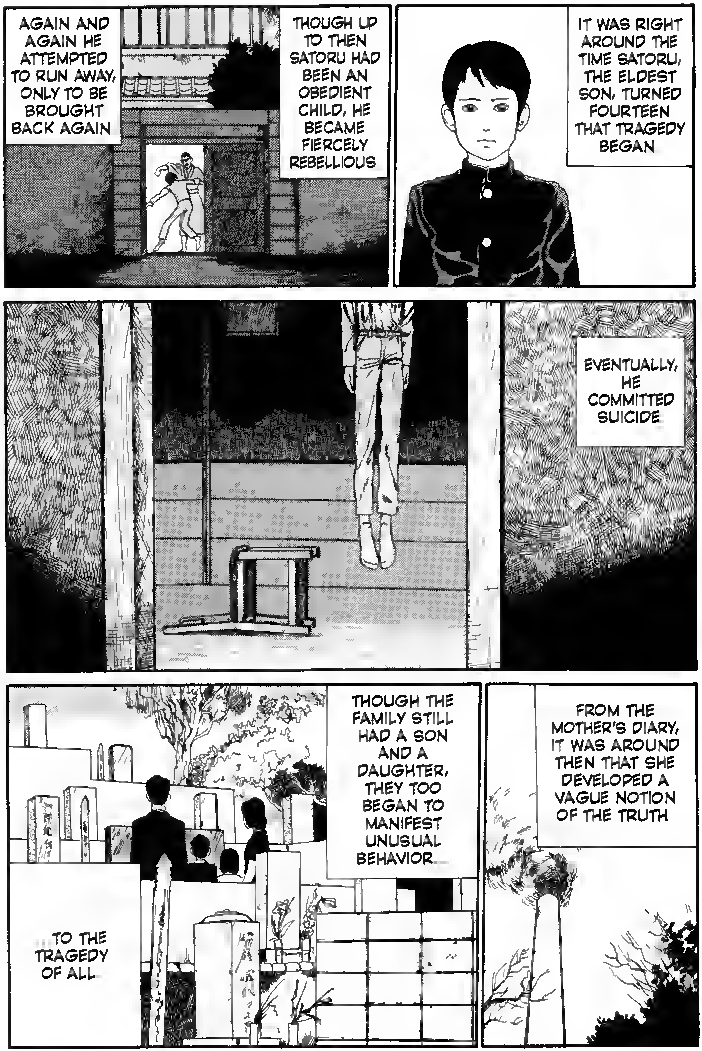
WHAT... WHAT IS... HOW DO WE...
THAT PALE-FACED FURUKAWA... WHO'S BEEN EATING SUPPER WITH US EVERY NIGHT...
BUT THEN...
S-STOP IT!
IS IT.. HIS GHOST?
ドン
BAM
ドン
BAM
BAM
ドン
BAM
BAM

HURRY IT UP!
YES... JUST A SECOND
YES... OKAY, COMING
COME ON! OPEN!
OPEN UP! THIS IS THE MILITARY POLICE!
OH!
UR... UM, OSH!-MA...
WHAT DO YOU THINK? LIKE IT?
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO? YOU'RE NOT HIDING A DESERTER, ARE YOU?!
RATTLE
ガラッ
WE'VE GOT DEFINITE INFORMATION THAT YOU'RE HIDING SABURO FURUKAWA IN HERE
RESISTANCE IS USELESS! JUST COME ON OUT!
AHEM
NOW...

ドーン
BOOM
BOOM
ヒュルルル
YEAH?
D.. DON'T SHOUT
HEY... OSHI-MA...
WHY NOT?
IT'S FURUKAWA
IT'S BECAUSE HE'LL HEAR YOU...


父の心
HEART OF A FATHER

THEIR MOTHER WAS GENTLE, MODEST, AND FROM A GOOD FAMILY
THE THREE CHILDREN OF THE TODO FAMILY WERE RAISED UNDER THE STERN THUMB OF THEIR FATHER
THE CHILDREN WERE IN AWE OF THEIR STERN FATHER.
AND ALL SIGNS INDICATED HIS COMPANY WAS TO EXPAND EVEN FURTHER
THEIR FATHER WAS A SELF-MADE MAN, WITH A BOOMING BUSINESS TO SHOW FOR IT.
IT LASTED ONLY A MINUTE. ONCE IT STOPPED, THE CHILD RETURNED TO HEALTH.
THEIR FAMILY DOCTOR DIAGNOSED THEM AS MIGRAINES
ONCE A WEEK, AS THE MOTHER'S DIARY HAD IT, EACH CHILD EXPERIENCED THE HEADACHE, BUT NO TWO AT THE SAME TIME
THOUGH THEY LIVED IN AFFLUENCE, THEIR MOTHER HAD ONE CONSTANT CONCERN.
—WHICH WAS THE RECURRING HEADACHES SUFFERED BY ALL HER CHILDREN


AGAIN AND AGAIN HE ATTEMPTED TO RUN AWAY, ONLY TO BE BROUGHT BACK AGAIN
THOUGH UP TO THEN SATORU HAD BEEN AN OBEDIENT CHILD, HE BECAME FIERCELY REBELLIOUS
IT WAS RIGHT AROUND THE TIME SATORU, THE ELDEST SON, TURNED FOURTEEN THAT TRAGEDY BEGAN
EVENTUALLY, HE COMMITTED SUICIDE
THOUGH THE FAMILY STILL HAD A SON AND A DAUGHTER, THEY TOO BEGAN TO MANIFEST UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR
FROM THE MOTHER'S DIARY, IT WAS AROUND THEN THAT SHE DEVELOPED A VAGUE NOTION OF THE TRUTH
TO THE TRAGEDY OF ALL

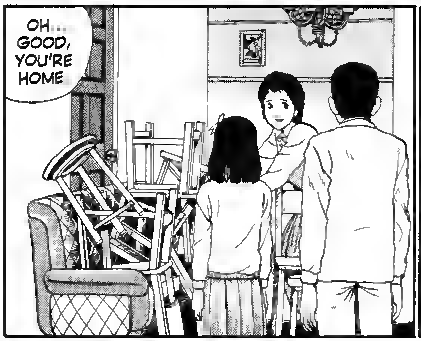
HUFF HUFFF
HUFF HUFFF
HUFFF
SHE'S HERE!
BROTHER! WAIT!

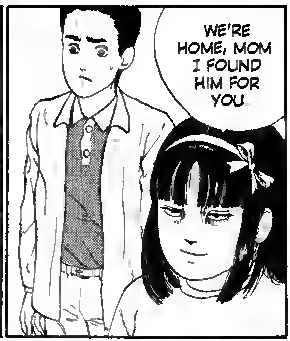
HE'S GONE AND HID IN HIS FRIEND'S HOUSE.
HUFF HUFF
DING DONG
DING DONG
HUFF HUFF
BROTHER!
AHH!
EIICHI, WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS?
HUFF... HUFF...
WHO'S AFTER WHAT?
TSUKASA, HELP ME... HE'S AFTER ME

MIHO
NO!! YOU GO HOME.
LET'S GO HOME.
LEAVE ME ALONE! I'M NOT A LITTLE KID ANYMORE!
BE A GOOD BOY AND BEHAVE!!
BROTHER!
...

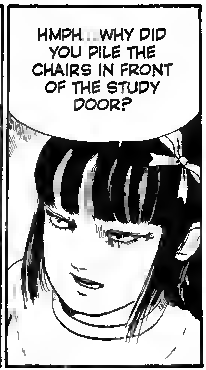
NO... NOTHING LIKE THAT.
DID YOU GUYS GET IN A FIGHT OR SOMETHING?
HEY... MIHO, WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY ARE YOU SO UPSET?
TSUKASA... I'LL HEAD ON HOME. SORRY ABOUT THIS.
EIICHI
THAT'S NOT THE MIHO I KNOW.
THAT LOOK... I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LIKE THAT BEFORE.
WELL... JUST DON'T FIGHT, GUYS.

TODO FAMILY


OH... GOOD, YOU'RE HOME

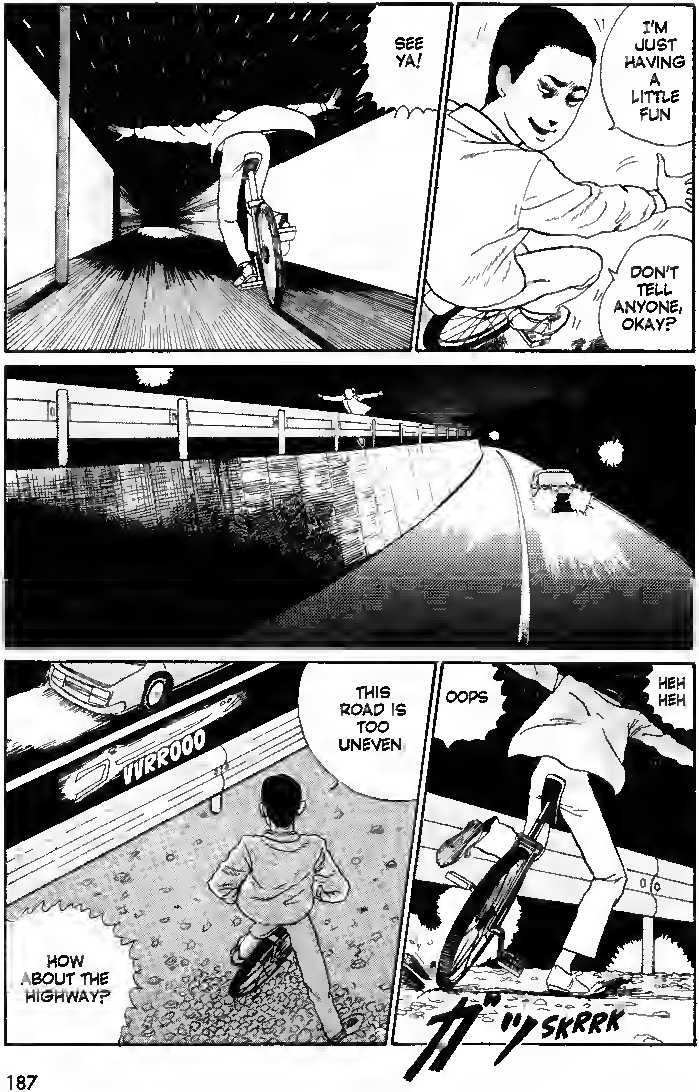

WE'RE HOME, MOM I FOUND HIM FOR YOU

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? GO PUT THEM BACK WHERE THEY BELONG


HMPH...WHY DID YOU PILE THE CHAIRS IN FRONT OF THE STUDY DOOR?

WHY DON'T YOU BEHAVE IN A MANNER BEFITTING AN HEIR TO THE TODO FAMILY?
I KNOW I CERTAINLY DIDN'T RAISE YOU TO BE A HOOLIGAN.
EIICHI... WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT? WHY DID YOU WALL ME IN LIKE THAT?
SINCE SATORU DIED, I'VE PLACED ALL MY HOPES UPON YOU.
MIHO, YOU CAN GO TO BED NOW
SHE'S STILL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND YET SEE HOW MATURE SHE IS.
PERHAPS MIHO CAN TEACH YOU A THING OR TWO.

MIHO.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW A THING.
DON'T TALK BACK TO ME!!
OH, FINE. IF YOU'RE SO SET AGAINST OUR WAY OF LIFE, THEN LEAVE MY HOUSE!! YOU'RE OF NO USE TO ME.
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA
HEH HEH HEH.
WHOOPS
HEE HEE HEE.
E!!CHI, YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT PLAYING SO LATE AT NIGHT!
HEY, MIHO!
GO! GO!


SEE YA!
I'M JUST HAVING A LITTLE FUN
DON'T TELL ANYONE, OKAY?
VVRROOO
THIS ROAD IS TOO UNEVEN
HOW ABOUT THE HIGHWAY?
OOPS
HEH HEH
SKRRK

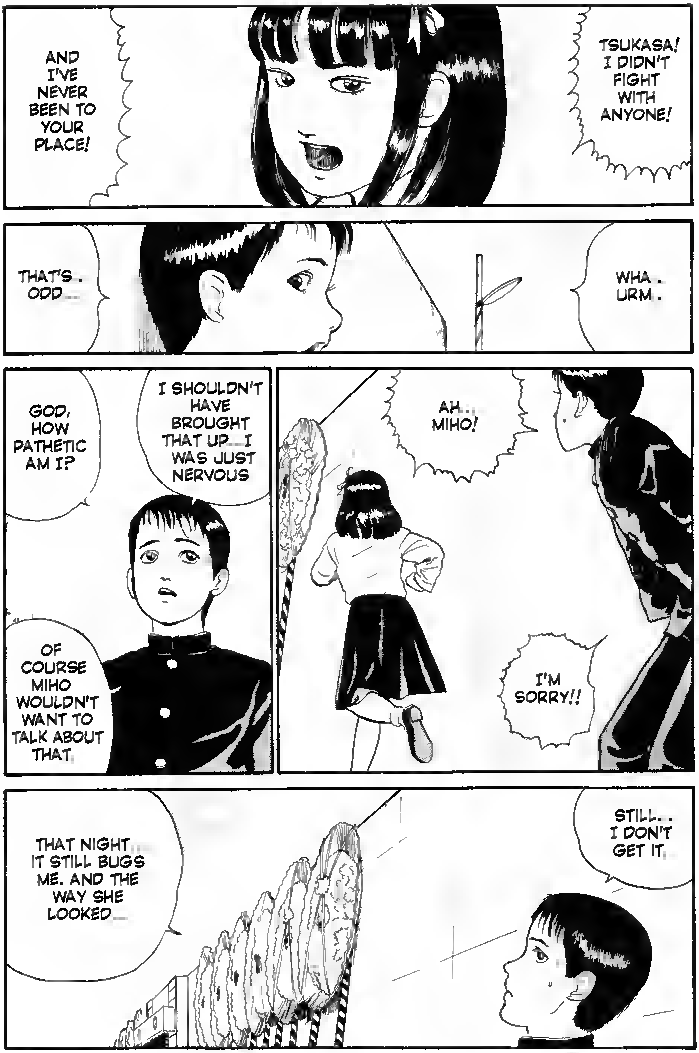
WHAT A TRIP! AHH, MAN. FOR ALL I CARE, THE OLD MAN CAN JUST GO EAT SHIT!
HA HA HA HA. THIS IS GREAT!
ガシャン!
KA-SKASH
ACK
HEH. THERE'S A CRASH FOR YA...AND. MM... SPEAKIN' OF CRASHES, I'M GETTING KIND OF.. SORRY, I'M GOING TO BED NOW. I'LL LET YOU DEAL WITH THE REST.

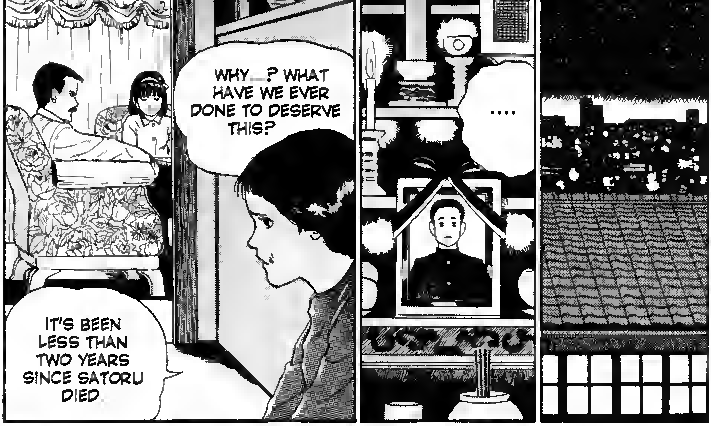
SNFF
SNFF
TODO FAMILY FUNERAL
....
MIHO SEEMS PERFECTLY NORMAL TODAY... I WONDER WHAT WAS UP WITH HER THAT NIGHT...
OH, RIGHT.
TSUKASA, HEY, IT'S YOUR TURN AT THE INCENSE.

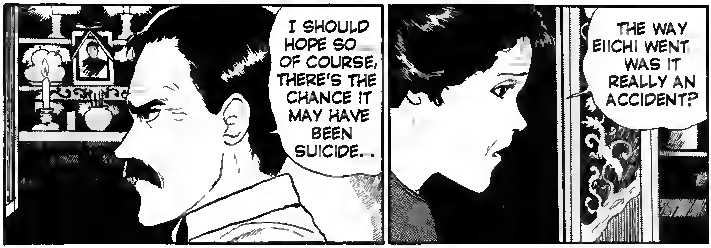
THEY SAY IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, BUT... THE WAY I HEAR IT, HE WAS STRETCHED OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF A HIGHWAY...
SHHH. NOT SO LOUD.
SUI-CIDE?!
TSUKASA. YOU REALIZE EIICHI COMMITTED SUICIDE?
STILL, I KINDA UNDERSTAND. THERE ALWAYS WAS SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT HIM. I NOTICED IT BACK IN GRADE SCHOOL.
WHY ELSE WOULD HE LIE OUT IN THE STREET? IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS DRUNK OR ANYTHING. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE... HEY. C'MERE, LET'S SIT DOWN
READY, EIICHI ?!
AAA-OAOAO-AAAH!!
HE WAS THERE, TOO.
REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE IN FIFTH GRADE, AND WE GOT TOGETHER TO VISIT THE "CHILDREN'S FOREST"...
SWOOSH

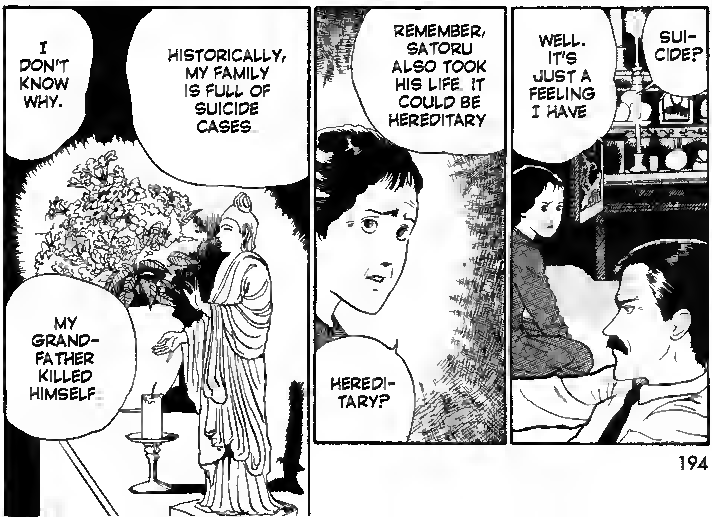
AH HA HA HA HA
AH HA HA HA HA
EIICHI! WHAT ARE YOU, NUTS? THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
BUT HE WASN'T NORMAL... REMEMBER, HIS EYES WERE ALL BLOOD-SHOT
THEN HE GOT BETTER IN, LIKE, NO TIME, AND REJOINED US
WE WERE HORSING AROUND, AND SUDDENLY HE SAT DOWN AND STARTED TO WHINE ABOUT THIS HEADACHE...
Y YEAH
YOU OKAY?
WHEN I BROUGHT IT UP THE NEXT DAY, HE INSISTED HE DIDN'T REMEMBER A THING. HE SURE WAS A WEIRD KID
THAT'S IT... THAT WAS THE LOOK
HEY... WHAT'S UP?
HIS BROTHER COMMITTED SUICIDE, TOO... YOU THINK THEY'RE CURSED OR SOMETHING?
COME TO THINK OF IT...

....
HEY, MIHO.
DON'T BE SO DOWN.
I WASN'T FIGHT-ING!
FIGHT-ING?
ER...UM WHEN I SAW YOU LAST... WHY WERE YOU FIGHTING?
URRGH... WHAT DO I SAY AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
BUT...ER...REMEMBER, YOU CAME BY WITH EIICHI YOU LOOKED REALLY UPSET.

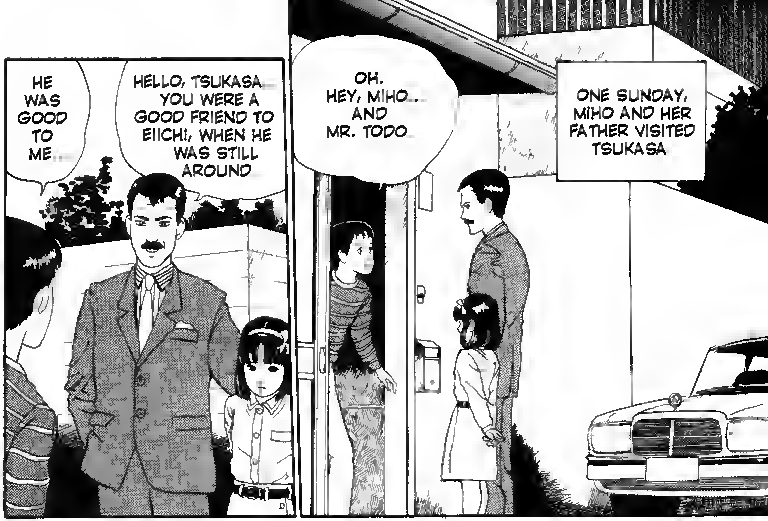

AND I'VE NEVER BEEN TO YOUR PLACE!
TSUKASA! I DIDN'T FIGHT WITH ANYONE!
THAT'S . ODD...
WHA . URM .
GOD, HOW PATHETIC AM I?
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT THAT UP...I WAS JUST NERVOUS
OF COURSE MIHO WOULDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT.
AH... MIHO!
I'M SORRY!!
THAT NIGHT... IT STILL BUGS ME. AND THE WAY SHE LOOKED...
STILL... I DON'T GET IT.


WHY...? WHAT HAVE WE EVER DONE TO DESERVE THIS?
IT'S BEEN LESS THAN TWO YEARS SINCE SATORU DIED
....

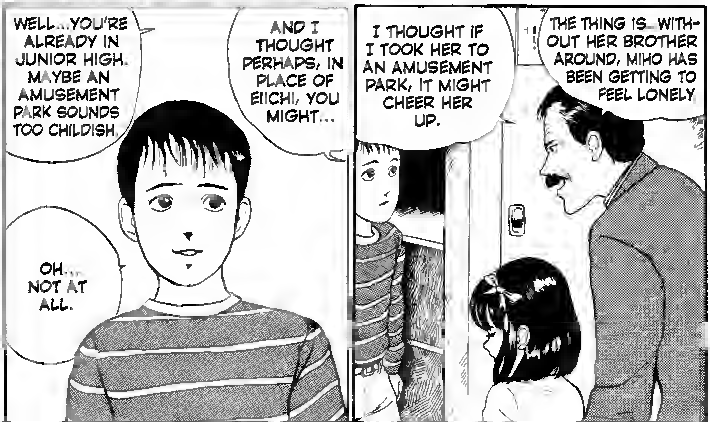

I SHOULD HOPE SO... OF COURSE, THERE'S THE CHANCE IT MAY HAVE BEEN SUICIDE...
THE WAY EIICHI WENT... WAS IT REALLY AN ACCIDENT?

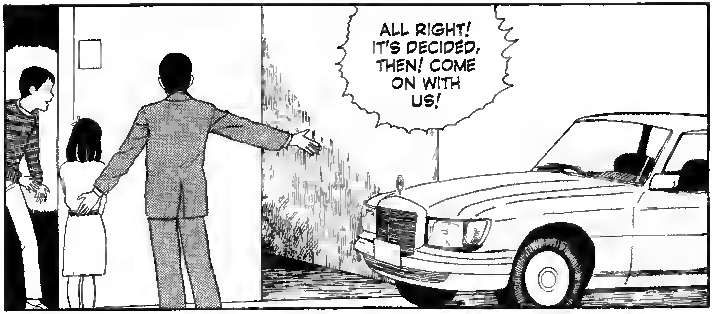

I DON'T KNOW WHY.
HISTORICALLY, MY FAMILY IS FULL OF SUICIDE CASES...
MY GRAND-FATHER KILLED HIMSELF...
REMEMBER, SATORU ALSO TOOK HIS LIFE. IT COULD BE HEREDITARY...
HEREDI-TARY?
WELL. IT'S JUST A FEELING I HAVE...
SUI-CIDE?

AS I SAID, SUICIDE RUNS IN THE FAMILY. I GUESS WE ARE CURSED
MY MOTHER WORKED HARD TO FEED HER THREE KIDS ALL ON HER OWN STILL, IN TIME THE STRESS GOT TO HER AND SHE GOT IT IN HER HEAD TO COMMIT FAMILY SUICIDE THAT'S WHEN I LOST MY BROTHERS AT THE TIME I WAS ALMOST FOUR YEARS OLD
IT WAS JUST AFTER I WAS BORN.
SO DID MY FATHER, AFTER HE RACKED UP A HUGE DEBT
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MIHO!
YOU HAVE FREE-DOM
YES, DADDY
COMPARED TO THE TRIALS I WENT THROUGH, YOU'VE GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN YOUR HANDS... I KNOW I CAN BE TOUGH ON ALL OF YOU, BUT STILL...
THAT'S HOW WE CAN LIVE IN COMFORT TODAY.
AND I WON
MY RELATIVES TOOK ME IN, BUT I WAS DRIVEN TO SUCCEED ON MY OWN TERMS
DID HE REALLY WANT TO DIE?
DARLING.. DID EIICHI COMMIT SUICIDE?
SO WITH ALL THIS FREEDOM, WHY DID MY STUPID SONS HAVE TO CHOOSE DEATH?!


ONE SUNDAY, MIHO AND HER FATHER VISITED TSUKASA
OH. HEY, MIHO... AND MR. TODO
HELLO, TSUKASA... YOU WERE A GOOD FRIEND TO EIICHI, WHEN HE WAS STILL AROUND
HE WAS GOOD TO ME...

WELL... I'M GRATEFUL YOU WERE... SAY HELLO, MIHO.
HEL-LO.
HA HA HA... DON'T BE SO SHY...

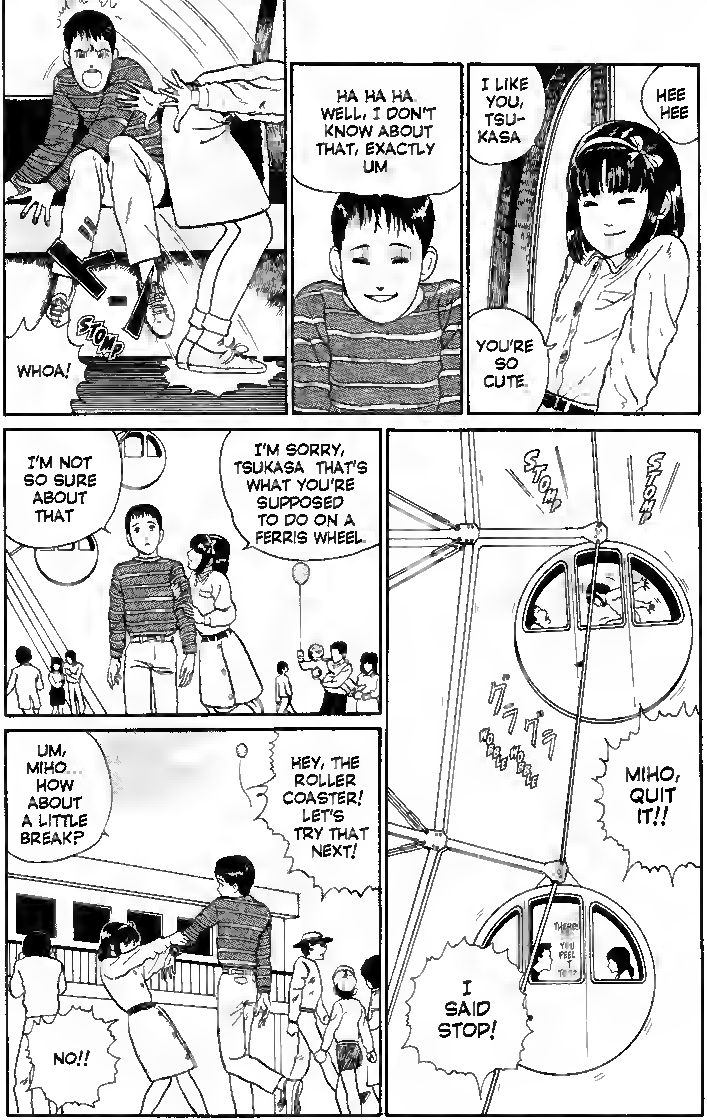

THE THING IS... WITH-OUT HER BROTHER AROUND, MIHO HAS BEEN GETTING TO FEEL LONELY.
I THOUGHT IF I TOOK HER TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK, IT MIGHT CHEER HER UP.
AND I THOUGHT PERHAPS, IN PLACE OF EIICHI, YOU MIGHT...
WELL... YOU'RE ALREADY IN JUNIOR HIGH. MAYBE AN AMUSEMENT PARK SOUNDS TOO CHILDISH.
OH... NOT AT ALL.

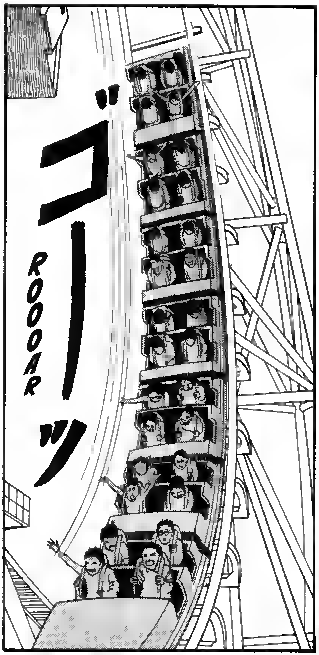

ALL RIGHT! IT'S DECIDED, THEN! COME ON WITH US!

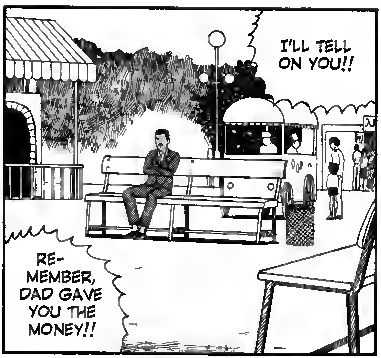
OH ...YOU'RE NOT GOING ON ANY RIDES YOURSELF, SIR?
NOW, TSUKASA, HERE'S SOME SPENDING MONEY GO AND SHOW MIHO A GOOD TIME, WILL YOU?
NO... TODAY I'M MERELY A CHAUFFEUR.
DON'T BE SHY, MIHO. GO OFF AND PLAY WITH TSUKASA.
DAAAD!
I'LL TAKE A NAP RIGHT HERE
CHAKKA CHAKKA BUM
CHAK CHAK BUM
LET'S GO, THEN, MIHO.

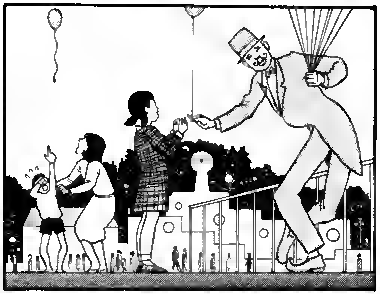
OH, NO... DID THE TEACUPS MAKE YOU SICK?
IT... HURTS...
MY HEAD...
WHAT'S WRONG, MIHO? HEY..
MAYBE WE SHOULD GO BACK TO YOUR FATHER NOW
YEAH. IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.
YOU OKAY?
NO. I'M OKAY. IT DOESN'T HURT ANY-MORE.
LET'S GO. I WANT TO DO THE FERRIS WHEEL NEXT!
YOU SURE?

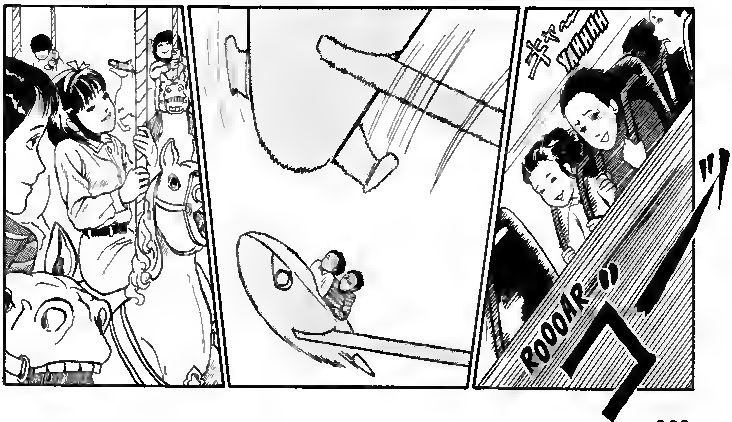
WOW! LOOK AT THAT! I SEE GODZILLA!
YEAH, THAT'S PROBABLY A BALLOON... HEY, MIHO, DON'T LEAN ON THE DOOR. IT'S DANGEROUS.
YOU LOOK STRANGE...
OH, TSU-KASA...
WHAT... YOU KIDDING?
WOW! WE'RE UP SO HIGH!!
LOOKS LIKE THE HEIGHT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU AT ALL.
BONK
HEY, MIHO! WATCH OUT!
TEE HEE.
I KNOW YOU'RE LYING... HEH HEH
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?
NO, REALLY YOU'RE PURPLE
IT'S NOTHING...


WHOA!
STOMP
HA HA HA WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, EXACTLY UM
I LIKE YOU, TSUKASA
HEE HEE
YOU'RE SO CUTE.
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT
I'M SORRY, TSUKASA THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO ON A FERRIS WHEEL.
STOMP
STOMP
MIHO, QUIT IT!!
I SAID STOP!
UM, MIHO... HOW ABOUT A LITTLE BREAK?
HEY, THE ROLLER COASTER! LET'S TRY THAT NEXT!
NO!!

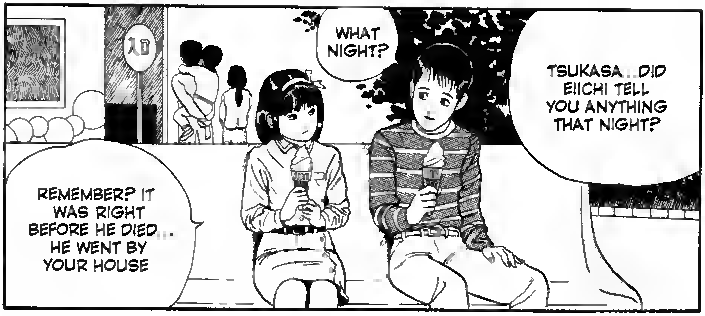

ゴーッ
ROOOAR

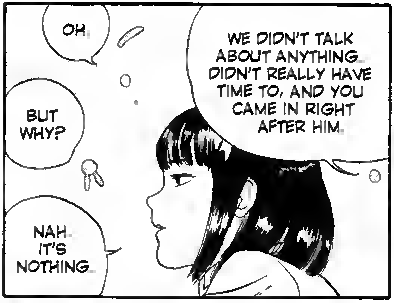

I'LL TELL ON YOU!!
RE-MEMBER, DAD GAVE YOU THE MONEY!!

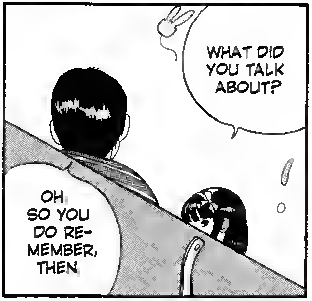



キャー!!!!!!
ROOOAR

HERE YOU GO
THANK YOU
ブンチャッチャ ブンチャッチャ
CHAKKA CHAKKA BUM CHAKKA CHAKKA BUM
ブンチャッチャ
BUM CHAK CHAK BUM
ABOUT WHAT?
ANY-WAY, I'M GLAD
YEAH
FROZEN YOGURT ALWAYS TASTES GREAT AFTER THE RIDES
ARE YOU AN-GRY?
NO IT'S LOGICAL
MIHO MUST YOU BE SO NEGA-TIVE?
ACK
SO YOU CAN'T BE
NO, SEE, YOU'RE NOT A FAMILY MEMBER, TSUKASA
NO WAY YOU COULD NEVER BE
THAT YOU ARE HAPPY... I HOPE I MAKE A GOOD STAND-IN BROTHER

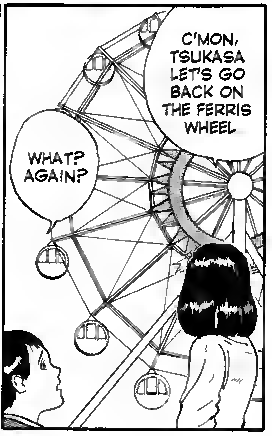

入口
WHAT NIGHT?
TSUKASA...DID EIICHI TELL YOU ANYTHING THAT NIGHT?
REMEMBER? IT WAS RIGHT BEFORE HE DIED... HE WENT BY YOUR HOUSE

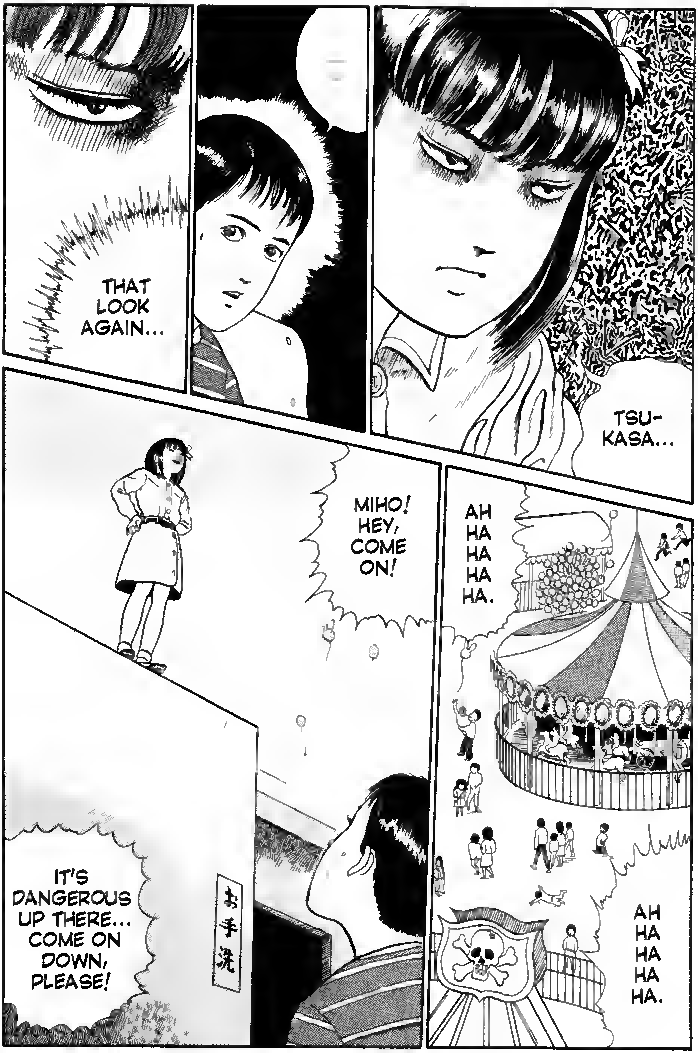

OH
WE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT ANYTHING... DIDN'T REALLY HAVE TIME TO, AND YOU CAME IN RIGHT AFTER HIM.
BUT WHY?
NAH... IT'S NOTHING.

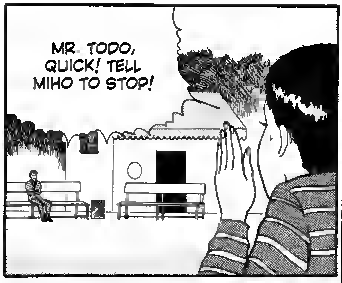

WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?
OH, SO YOU DO RE-MEMBER, THEN.

LOOK, I'M OUT OF MONEY ANYWAY SO WE CAN'T.

TSU-KASA! PLEASE!!
YOU KNOW... I'D RATHER NOT, MIHO. YOU GET TOO WILD FOR ME.

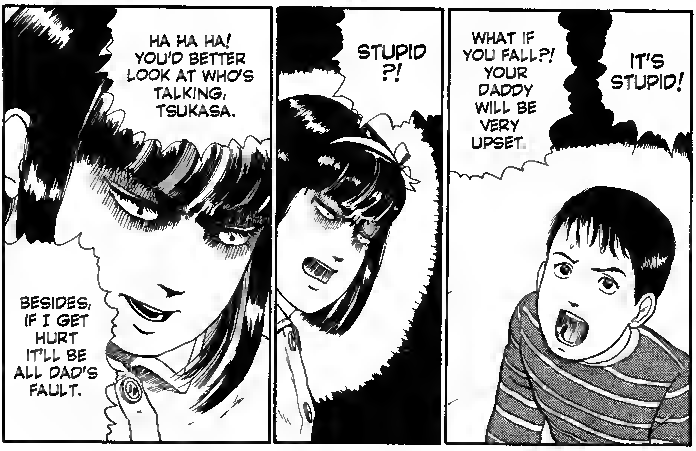

C'MON, TSUKASA LET'S GO BACK ON THE FERRIS WHEEL.
WHAT? AGAIN?


THAT LOOK AGAIN...
TSU-KASA...
AH HA HA HA HA.
MIHO! HEY, COME ON!
IT'S DANGEROUS UP THERE... COME ON DOWN, PLEASE!
お手洗
AH HA HA HA HA.


MR. TODO, QUICK! TELL MIHO TO STOP!

AH HA HA HA HA HEY TSUKASA, WHY DON'T YOU COME UP TOO?!
THE VIEW IS AMAZING!

GO GET SOME!
FWA HA HA HA HA. MY DADDY'S ASLEEP. IF YOU NEED MONEY, YOU CAN FIND IT IN HIS POCKET.


HA HA HA! YOU'D BETTER LOOK AT WHO'S TALKING, TSUKASA.
BESIDES, IF I GET HURT IT'LL BE ALL DAD'S FAULT.
STUPID ?!
WHAT IF YOU FALL?! YOUR DADDY WILL BE VERY UPSET.
IT'S STUPID!

KRUMPP
WHOA!
AHH!
TUP トン
IT'S EASY TO JUMP FROM HERE.
WANT TO SEE IT?
ARE YOU OKAY?!
MR. TODO, WE'VE GOT BIG PROB-LEMS!
MR. TODO!
MIHO!

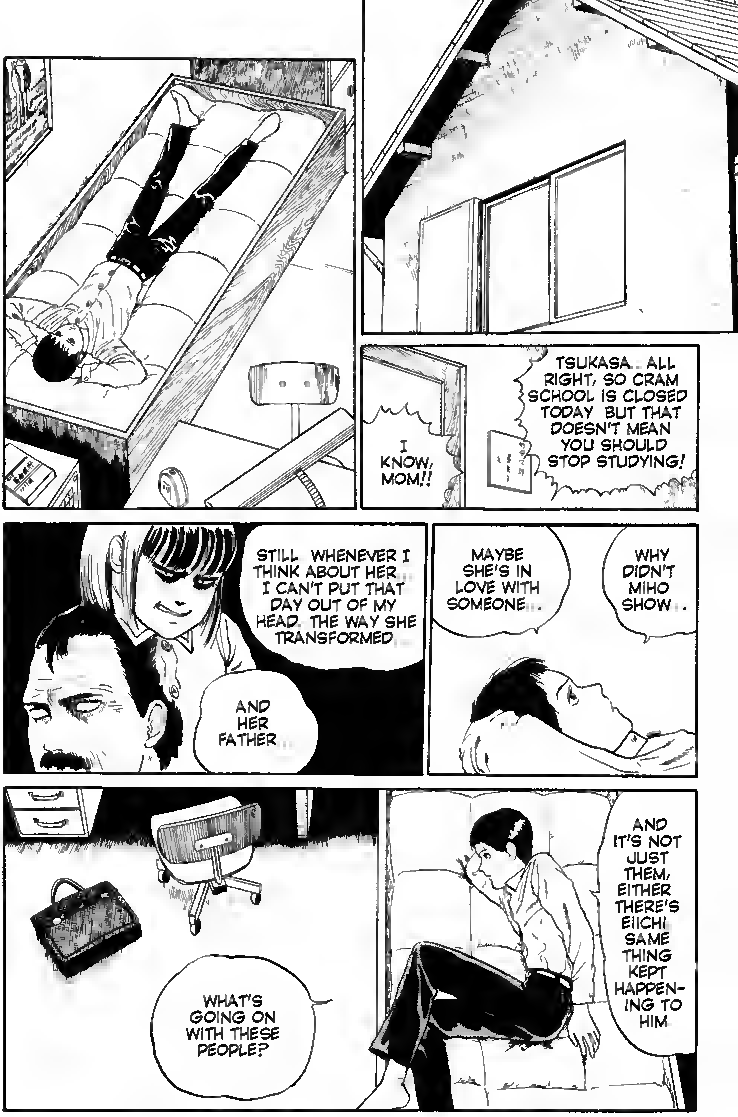
HEH HEH HEH
SHE LOOKS BADLY HURT
HEY, KID YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE
WE'D BETTER CALL AN AMBULANCE
MR. TODO
HUFF HUFF

HEY, SHE'S COMING. YOU READY?! IF YOU PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT, YOU'LL MARRY INTO MONEY.
DON'T TEASE.
THUS BEGAN THE FINAL TRAGEDY.
BYE HAVE A GOOD DAY
SEE YOU, MOM.
TWO YEARS LATER...
遠堂
MIHO ENROLLED IN JUNIOR HIGH.
I... WELL... YOU'RE SO PRETTY, AND NEAT...
I... I THINK I'M IN LOVE...
YESTERDAY, TH-TH-THE MOMENT I SAW YOU...
T-T-TODO!
I... I... I'M AOKI, FROM CLASS 1A.
SHE'S ALREADY GOT SOMEONE ELSE.
I'M SORRY.

YOU'RE ALONE, RIGHT?
LET'S WALK TO-GETHER
YES...
OH... TSU-KASA
HEY, HOW YA DOING, MIHO
YOU GOT ANY PLANS FOR AFTER SCHOOL?
BY THE WAY...
UM... NO...
THEN I'LL WAIT FOR YOU, RIGHT OUT HERE
YEAH... SO HAVE YOU.
YOU KNOW, MIHO YOU'VE GROWN A LOT.

キーンコーンカーン
DING DONG DUN
LET'S BEAT IT
YEAH! CRAM SCHOOL'S CLOSED TODAY!
I'M SORRY, I'M MEETING SOMEONE TODAY
WHEN CAN I EXPECT YOUR REPLY?
WAIT!!
PLEASE, TODO! DON'T GO!
DID YOU READ MY LETTER?!
WHY ARE YOU BEING QUIET?! ANSWER ME!
I WON'T LET YOU!
MIHO!
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH HIM?!
IS IT THAT GUY YOU WERE WITH EARLIER?

AWK.
MIHO...
SHUT YOUR FACE...
D... DON'T. STAY AWAY...
THAT'S RIGHT, THE CURSED BLOOD-LINE
WHAT'S WRONG?
M. MIHO...
AH HA HA HA HA HA
WHOAA!
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A TODO
THAT'S ENOUGH FROM YOU, JERK!


TSUKASA... ALL RIGHT, SO CRAM SCHOOL IS CLOSED TODAY BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD STOP STUDYING!
I KNOW, MOM!!
STILL WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT HER... I CAN'T PUT THAT DAY OUT OF MY HEAD. THE WAY SHE TRANSFORMED...
AND HER FATHER...
MAYBE SHE'S IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE...
WHY DIDN'T MIHO SHOW...
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THESE PEOPLE?
AND IT'S NOT JUST THEM, EITHER THERE'S EIICHI SAME THING KEPT HAPPEN-ING TO HIM

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THERE? COME ON INSIDE.
OH, MIHO... HOME SO SOON?
MOM I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE
HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS?
ANOTHER HEAD-ACHE?
IT'S LIKE MY BRAIN IS IN A VISE...
AND THEN... I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENS.
OH, MIHO... JUST BE STRONG.
IT'LL ALL PASS ONCE YOU'RE OLDER... I'M SURE IT WILL...
HOW DO YOU KNOW?!

HE'LL KILL YOU
YOUR FA-THER..
...?!
WHY?! WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO?
IF YOU... IF YOU DON'T...
MIHO, PLEASE JUST LIVE WITH IT
COME WITH ME
MIHO, I WANT A WORD WITH YOU.
MIHO!
FOR NOW, JUST REMEMBER, YOU'RE STILL A KID DON'T START FOOLING AROUND
MIHO... IT SEEMS THAT YOU HAVE BEGUN TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF SEVERAL YOUNG MEN

I'LL TELL YOU IT'S A LOVE LETTER FROM SOME JERK CALLED KAYAMA.
WHAT'S THIS, THEN?
TO MIHO TODO
FOOLING AROUND? I DON'T DO ANY OF THAT
MIHO! I'M YOUR FATHER! OPEN UP YOUR HEART TO ME!
YOU'RE TERRIBLE!
THIS IS TERRIBLE WHEN DID YOU TAKE THAT OUT OF MY BAG?
MIHO!
HMPH LET'S SEE. "YOUR FREQUENCY IS TEN THOUSAND HERTZ, MY LONELY HEART A SPECIAL RECEIVER DESIGNATED FOR YOU." MY LORD, AND HE'S STILL A CHILD
NOT YET FIRST SHE HAS TO GROW UP..ANYWAY, SACHIE, YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT SOMETHING?
HONEY MIHO HAS HER OWN LIFE..
UH... HE'S DISGUST-ING!!
HMPH .NOW MIHO IS GETTING OUT OF HAND..

HON-EY...
GIVE ME A HEALTHY BABY... I WANT A BOY THIS TIME
OH... ARE YOU? THAT'S FANTASTIC!
I MIGHT BE PREG-NANT
YES, I...
WHAT?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO MIHO?
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, IF WE HAVE A NEW BABY?
YOUR JOB IS TO COOK FOR ME
GO TO BED, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
SACHIE, YOU'RE MY WIFE.
WHAT NON-SENSE IS THAT?!
YOU STUPID BITCH!!

HMPH... WHAT'S WRONG WITH EVERY-BODY...
SOME-THING'S... IT'S FORCING ITS WAY IN...
NOT AGAIN!
AH!
SHEENG
IT HURTS!
DAD... AH.
IT'S WORSE THAN EVER
AHH
DAD... DAD. HELP...

AHH!
HUH!
HYAAA!!
IT'S DADDY... HE'S... IT'S HIM, FORCING INTO MY HEAD!
MIHO! OPEN UP YOUR HEART! DON'T DENY ME!
HYAAA!!

HYAAA!
THAT'S RIGHT... OPEN UP... OPEN UP AND ACCEPT ME!

MIHOOO!

WHAT I HEAR, SOMEONE PUSHED HIM DOWN.
HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
DID YOU HEAR?
KAYAMA FROM CLASS E TOOK A TUMBLE DOWN THE STAIRS. HE WAS HURT PRETTY BAD.
NOOO! THAT'S TERRIBLE.
WHO DID IT?
NO WAY! THAT'S TERRIBLE.
THAT'S TERRIBLE.
TSUKASA.
MIHO... HEY, YOU LOOK DEPRESSED.
WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE ME FOR?
HEY, MIHO. WHAT'S UP?
IT'S ME. I BET I DID IT.
OR... NO. IT'S DAD WHO DID IT.
HELP ME...
WHAT?

I BET HE'S BEEN DOING IT TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME IT'S ONLY LAST NIGHT I REALIZED WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.
IT'S MY DAD HE'S... HE'S TAKING OVER MY BODY, CONTROLLING WHAT I DO...
HOLD ON, MIHO, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? CALM DOWN
YOU KNOW KAYAMA, FROM CLASS E? I WAS THE ONE WHO PUSHED HIM.
AND IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING, I MIGHT HURT SOMEONE AGAIN WITHOUT KNOWING IT.
MOM TELLS ME TO BEAR WITH IT, BUT I CAN'T.
BECAUSE .. MY MOM'S EXPECTING A BABY.. SO SOON HE WON'T NEED ME ANYMORE.
I THINK MY DAD IS GOING TO KILL ME
MIHO! CALM DOWN...
AHH.
WHEN MY DAD COULDN'T CONTROL MY BROTHERS, HE DECIDED THEY WEREN'T ANY MORE USE TO HIM. THAT'S WHY HE GOT RID OF THEM.

MIHO.
IT'S MY DAD!
MY HEAD...
MIHO!
YOU ALL RIGHT?
DID MIHO TELL YOU THAT?!
NO!!
CALM DOWN AND EXPLAIN IT TO ME AGAIN.
WHAT DID YOUR DAD DO TO YOU?
YOU SAID HE TOOK OVER YOUR BODY?

IT'S A SHAME OUR LITTLE SECRET HAD TO GET OUT LIKE THIS.
WELL, I CAN'T LET IT SPREAD. I'D BETTER KILL YOU BOTH.
MIHO...
HA HA HA, TSUKASA.
YOU'VE SURE GROWN SINCE OUR LAST MEETING.
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M IN CONTROL OF HER BODY.
IT SOUNDS LIKE MIHO HAS TOLD YOU EVERY-THING...
STOP IT!
DIE!
YOU'LL DIE WITH A PURPLE FACE.
AH HA HA HA HA. I KNOW HOW YOU HATE HEIGHTS.
ACK.

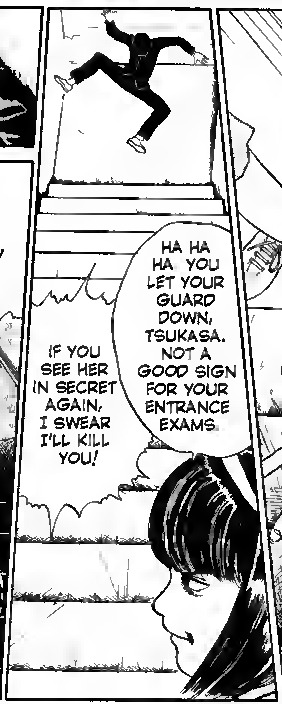
NO!!
PWA HA HA HA HA
I GET IT NOW!
YEAH...
WHOOO...
TSUKASA...
UHH...
...AND THE WAY EIICHI DIED... YEAH, IT ALL MAKES SENSE!
IF IT'S ALL HIS DOING.. THEN WHAT HAPPENED AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK..

I'LL PROTECT YOU!
DON'T WORRY, MIHO.

ARE YOU BACK?
MIHO. HEY.
UHH, TSUKASA, HELP ME

AWW

TSUK-ASA, ARE YOU OKAY?!
NOOO!
WHAT IS THIS, ANOTH-ER ACT?


HA HA HA YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, TSUKASA. NOT A GOOD SIGN FOR YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS.
IF YOU SEE HER IN SECRET AGAIN, I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU!

WHOA, MIHO!

YES, I'M READY.
NO, HE'S GONE RIGHT NOW
HELLO, TODO RESIDENCE TSUKASA?
A FEW DAYS LATER
MOM, I'M GOING. HOW ABOUT YOU?
K-CHAK
BEFORE DAD COMES HOME.
JUST... HURRY.
FINE! I'LL GO WITH YOU. IT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST.
MIHO.

SACHIE! WHERE ARE YOU?!
MIHO!
WHERE ARE THOSE WOMEN?
ANSWER ME!
DON'T YOU HEAR ME?! I'M HOME!
I KNOW WHERE YOU ARE.
HOW DARE YOU! YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY FROM ME?!
YOU'RE AT TSU-KASA'S.
GODDAMN!T! ALL THEIR CLOTHES... THEIR THINGS I BOUGHT THEM...

AFTER WHAT YOU TOLD MY PARENTS THE OTHER DAY, THEY AGREE COMPLETELY.
PLEASE GO... YOU MUST GET AWAY FROM MR TODO.
MY AUNT IN HOKKAIDO SAYS YOU CAN STAY WITH HER
HER HOUSE IS BIG, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT SPACE OR ANYTHING.
MY AUNT LIVES ALONE, SO SHE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING YOU BOTH.
TSUKASA . WHEN EIICHI WAS ALIVE, YOU WERE ALWAYS KIND TO HIM. AND NOW YOU'RE HELPING BOTH OF US...
HOKKAIDO IS SO FAR AWAY, I CAN'T IMAGINE MR. TODO'S POWERS REACHING YOU
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN THANK YOU ENOUGH
HERE'S THE ADDRESS

MY AUNT OWNS HORSES. YOU'LL LIKE IT THERE.
OF COURSE! IT'S MY AUNT'S PLACE. I'LL COME VISIT THIS SUMMER
TSUKASA... WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?
MIHO... I GUESS THIS IS GOODBYE, FOR NOW JUST BE HAPPY. TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR MOM AND THE BABY, OKAY?
MY PARENTS ARE AT THE TRAIN STATION THEY'LL BE WAITING WITH YOUR TICKETS.
YOU'D BETTER SCRAM, BEFORE YOUR DAD NOTICES.
SACHIE!! MIHO!! COME OUT!
THAT WAS FAST
MOM
MIHO. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
AHH!

YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM ME! SO WHY TRY?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!
GIVE UP AND COME ON OUT!!
YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME! I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
THERE, TO THE RIGHT, AT THE END OF THE HALL
ダダダダ
REMEMBER! SOUTH GATE AT THE STATION!
HERE'S THE BACK WAY OUT. JUST LEAVE HIM TO ME.
WHO ALLOWED YOU TO LIVE IN LUXURY? YOU OWE IT ALL TO MY HARD LABOR! SINCE I WAS A KID, I'VE WORKED WITHOUT A SINGLE BREAK!
ARE YOU GOING TO BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU?! YOU UNGRATEFUL DOGS!
YOUR SHOES!
AH
YOUR LIVES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY SHELTERED!
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY LIVE WITHOUT ME?!

YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!
COME BACK TO ME!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
ガラッ
RATTLE
I'LL GET YOU!
DAMMIT! THERE'S A BACK DOOR TO THIS PLACE, ISN'T THERE?!
STEP ASIDE!!
TSU-KASA!
I CAN'T LET YOU PASS

WHERE ARE YOU SENDING THEM?
SOME-WHERE YOU'LL NEVER TOUCH THEM AGAIN.
JUST GO HOME.
SHIT.
YOU'RE DEAD!
LISTEN, TWERP!
YOU CAN'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!
URGH
WHAM
MIHO.. I'LL GET YOU.. RIGHT . NOW!

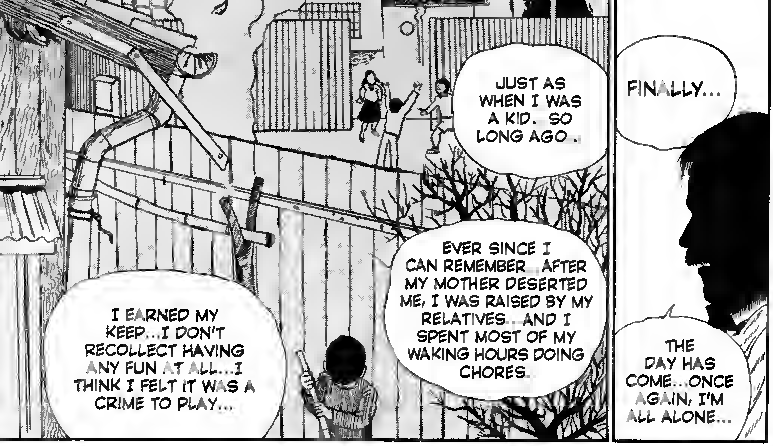
MIHO!
CHEEENG
AH... AHH!!
MY HEAD!
HUFF HUFF
HUFF HUFF
HYAAA!
LEAVE ME ALONE!! I'M NOT YOUR DAUGHTER ANYMORE! I'M GOING TO MAKE MY OWN LIFE!
STAY OUT OF MY HEAD!
PLEASE, STOP IT!
STOP IT! PLEASE!!
HONEY!
MIHO, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! WE NEED TO RUN!
AHHHH!!

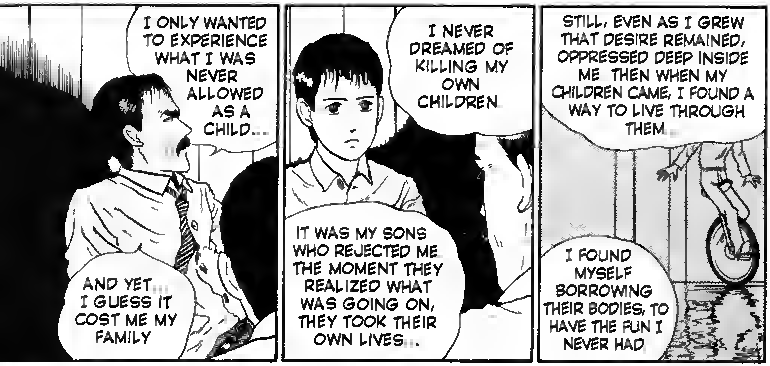
MIHO.
AHHH!!
STOP IT.
MIHO! I WON'T FORGIVE YOU. COME BACK RIGHT NOW!
HYAAA!
SACHIE, YOU TRAITOR!!
HEH HEH HEH
MIHO!
HEH.
HEH HEH.
MIHO, WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU OKAY?
MIHO

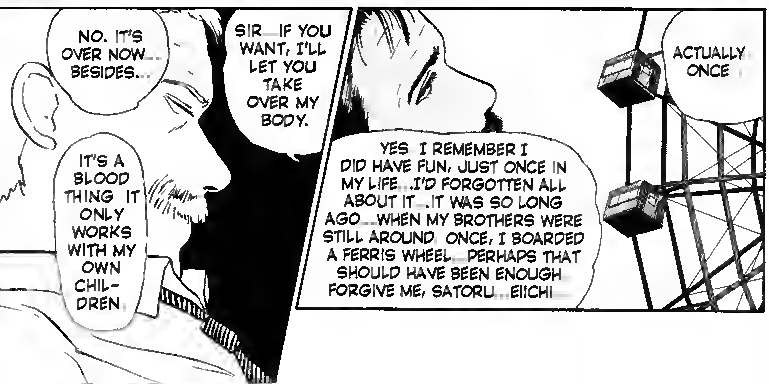
N... NO! LEG- GO...
URGGK... GUHH.
I SAID STOP IT, SIR!
ギュー YANK
I SAID LET GO! YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO DESTROY MY FAMILY!
NEVER UNDER- ESTIMATE A TWERP
LET GO!
YOU RUNT!
MOM, I..
HUH!
NOW, UP. LET'S RUN WHILE WE CAN
MIHO... OH, THANK GOOD- NESS

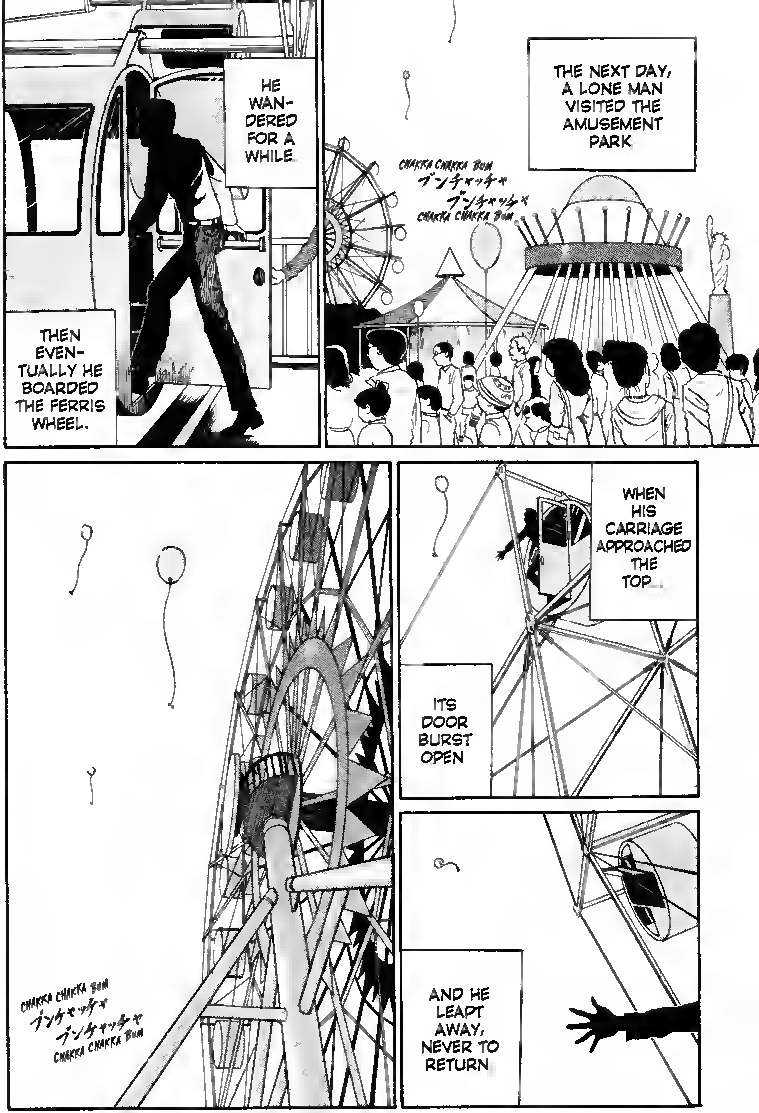
WHY DID YOU TAKE OVER HER BODY?
TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER? IS THAT HOW YOU STOLE HER LIFE FROM HER? IS IT?
MIHO! MIHO! COME BACK TO ME
YOU'RE THE ONE DESTROYING YOUR FAMILY FIRST YOU KILLED SATOSHI, THEN YOU KILLED EIICHI... NOW YOU'RE AFTER MIHO.
SHE'S LEAVING ME!
AHH, SHE'S GETTING AWAY!!
PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T GO...
SACHIE!!
AND YET WHEN YOU TAKE CONTROL, YOU RUIN EVERY-THING
LET GO, YOU PIECE OF SHIT!
MIHO IS A GENTLE GIRL...
I SAID LET GO! LET GO!!
SHUT UP! MIHO... MIHO'S GETTING AWAY!
PLEASE, LISTEN
SACHIE!!
IS IT TRUE? ARE YOU... REALLY LEAVING ME?
WHO DO YOU THINK HAS SUFFERED THE MOST?
SHE CRIED IN FRONT OF US ALL, BEGGING FOR MIHO'S SAFETY
GIVE IT UP, ALREADY THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO THEM
MRS. TODO CAME HERE THE OTHER DAY

SIR, PLEASE LET THEM GO!
PLEASE!!
ALL RIGHT YOU CAN LET GO NOW.
THEY'RE GONE
I CAN'T REACH THEM ANYMORE
MR TODO..
I'LL LET THEM BE..
I WON'T GO AFTER THEM
NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D BE CAPABLE OF THAT
HEH... THEY'RE REALLY GONE
MIHO IS A GROWN WOMAN NOW... OR ANYWAY, SHE TALKS LIKE ONE


I EARNED MY KEEP...I DON'T RECOLLECT HAVING ANY FUN AT ALL...I THINK I FELT IT WAS A CRIME TO PLAY...
EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER...AFTER MY MOTHER DESERTED ME, I WAS RAISED BY MY RELATIVES...AND I SPENT MOST OF MY WAKING HOURS DOING CHORES.
JUST AS WHEN I WAS A KID. SO LONG AGO...
FINALLY...
THE DAY HAS COME...ONCE AGAIN, I'M ALL ALONE...


I ONLY WANTED TO EXPERIENCE WHAT I WAS NEVER ALLOWED AS A CHILD...
AND YET... I GUESS IT COST ME MY FAMILY
I NEVER DREAMED OF KILLING MY OWN CHILDREN
IT WAS MY SONS WHO REJECTED ME THE MOMENT THEY REALIZED WHAT WAS GOING ON, THEY TOOK THEIR OWN LIVES...
STILL, EVEN AS I GREW THAT DESIRE REMAINED, OPPRESSED DEEP INSIDE ME. THEN WHEN MY CHILDREN CAME, I FOUND A WAY TO LIVE THROUGH THEM...
I FOUND MYSELF BORROWING THEIR BODIES, TO HAVE THE FUN I NEVER HAD


NO. IT'S OVER NOW... BESIDES...
IT'S A BLOOD THING. IT ONLY WORKS WITH MY OWN CHIL-DREN.
SIR...IF YOU WANT, I'LL LET YOU TAKE OVER MY BODY.
YES. I REMEMBER. I DID HAVE FUN, JUST ONCE IN MY LIFE...I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT...IT WAS SO LONG AGO...WHEN MY BROTHERS WERE STILL AROUND. ONCE, I BOARDED A FERRIS WHEEL...PERHAPS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH. FORGIVE ME, SATORU...EIICHI.
ACTUALLY ONCE.



HEART OF A FATHER / THE END

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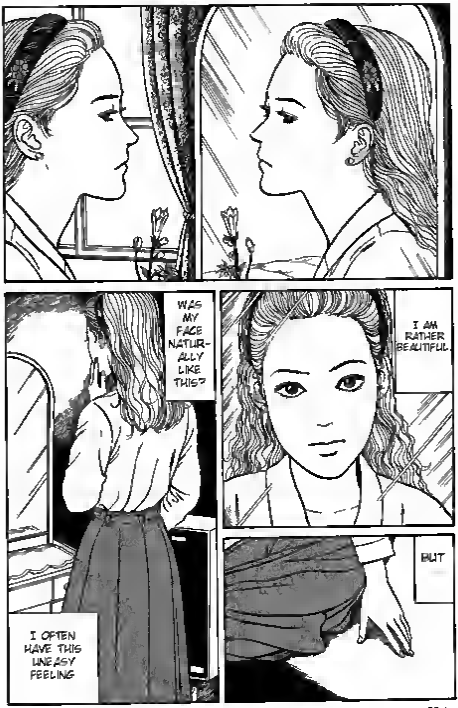
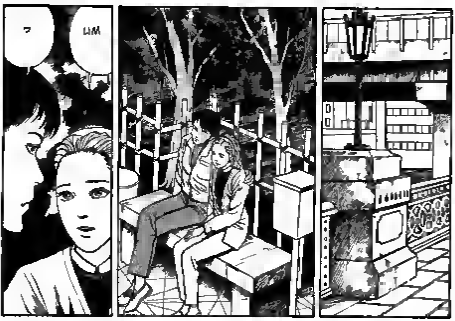

I AM RATHER BEAUTIFUL
BUT
WAS MY FACE NATURALLY LIKE THIS?
I OFTEN HAVE THIS UNEASY FEELING

I WOULD CHECK MY PHOTO ALBUM WHEN I FEEL UNEASY
ALBUM

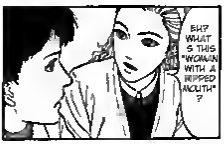
I'VE ALWAYS LOOKED LIKE THIS
SINCE MY INFANCY TILL NOW

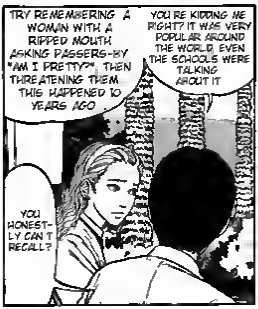

UM
?

RIE
WHAT'S WRONG? SO SUDDEN
YOSUKE
AM I PRETTY?

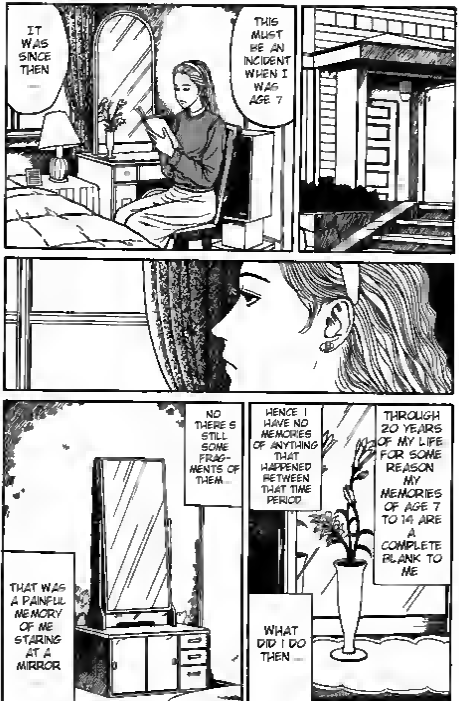
THIS REMINDS ME OF THE WOMAN WITH A RIPPED MOUTH
I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT

AM I BEAUTIFUL?
YES VERY STUNNING


EH? WHAT'S THIS "WOMAN WITH A RIPPED MOUTH"?


TRY REMEMBERING A WOMAN WITH A RIPPED MOUTH ASKING PASSERS-BY "AM I PRETTY?" THEN THREATENING THEM. THIS HAPPENED 10 YEARS AGO
YOU'RE KIDDING ME RIGHT? IT WAS VERY POPULAR AROUND THE WORLD. EVEN THE SCHOOLS WERE TALKING ABOUT IT
YOU HONESTLY CAN'T RECALL?

DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS IT ABOUT?
EH? YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS?

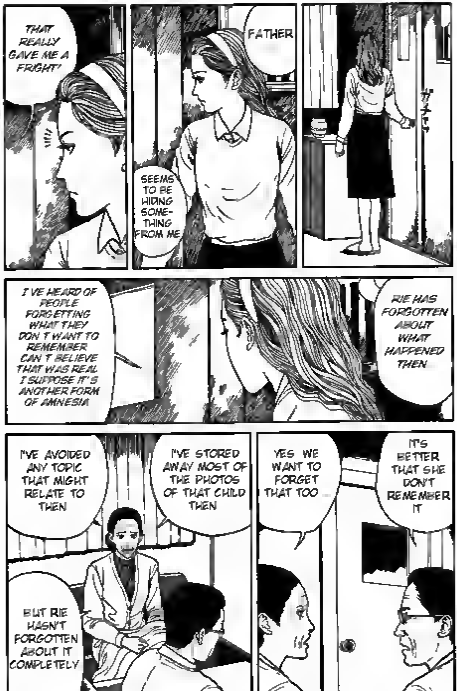

IT WAS SINCE THEN
THIS MUST BE AN INCIDENT WHEN I WAS AGE 7
THROUGH 20 YEARS OF MY LIFE FOR SOME REASON MY MEMORIES OF AGE 7 TO 14 ARE A COMPLETE BLANK TO ME
HENCE I HAVE NO MEMORIES OF ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THAT TIME PERIOD
NO THERE'S STILL SOME FRAGMENTS OF THEM...
THAT WAS A PAINFUL MEMORY OF ME STARING AT A MIRROR
WHAT DID I DO THEN...

BESIDE MY MOTHER
パラッ
ALL RIGHT, YOU SHOULD STOP STARING AT THE MIRROR.

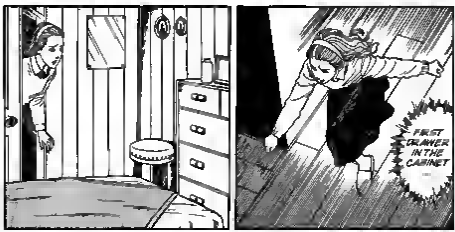
WHAT KIND OF FACE IS THAT? WHY DID I HAD SUCH A HORRID FACE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME WHEN I WAS 7 TO 14?
バラ
THERE WERE PHOTOS OF WHEN I WAS 7 TO 14 BUT NONE OF THEM RESEMBLED THE FACE IN MY MIND
ODDLY THERE WERE ONLY VERY FEW PHOTOS DURING THAT TIME PERIOD
THAT FACE SHOULD APPEAR SOME-WHERE IN MY ALBUM
BUT I COULD NOT FIND IT NO MATTER WHAT

THE LACKING NUMBER OF PHOTOS MADE ME MORE UNEASY
DID IT CHANGE DRASTICALLY ANY TIME BETWEEN AGE 7 TO 14?
WAS MY FACE ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
WHAT IS IT?
MOTHER
BUT I HAVE MEMORIES OF MY FACE FILLED WITH POCKS MY EYELIDS WERE SAGGY... IT WAS JUST HORRIBLY UGLY
OF COURSE IT WOULD NOT CHANGE
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT HAS BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE FOREVER

CAN SOMEONE'S FACE CHANGE SO DRASTICALLY?
I WANT TO KNOW HOW DID I HAVE SUCH A HORRID FACE THEN!
WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY? I ONLY HAVE BLURRY MEMORIES OF THEN
IF IT DID, I DON'T KNOW WHEN I MIGHT REVERT BACK TO THAT UGLY STATE! THAT'S WHAT I'M MOST CONCERNED ABOUT!
I WANT TO CONFIRM IF THAT REALLY HAPPENED!
STOP SAYING THESE STRANGE THINGS. GO TAKE A BATH NOW!
HOW CAN YOUR FACE CHANGE AS YOU PLEASE?
CALM DOWN RIE! YOU REMEMBERED WRONGLY!

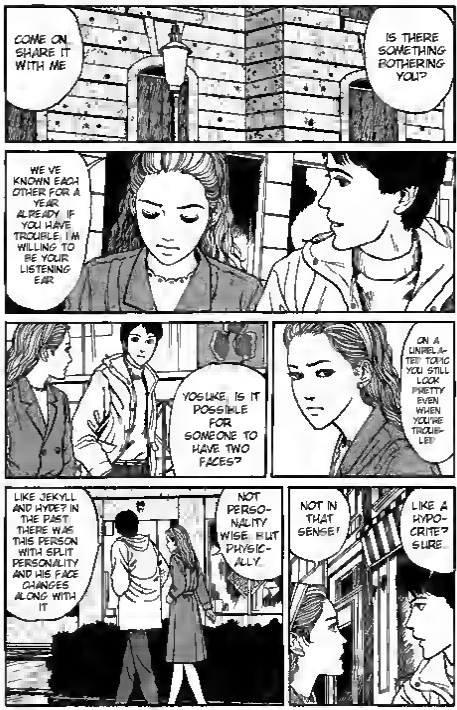

THAT REALLY GAVE ME A FRIGHT
FATHER
SEEMS TO BE HIDING SOME-THING FROM ME
I'VE HEARD OF PEOPLE FORGETTING WHAT THEY DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WAS REAL I SUPPOSE IT'S ANOTHER FORM OF AMNESIA
RIE HAS FORGOTTEN ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THEN
I'VE AVOIDED ANY TOPIC THAT MIGHT RELATE TO THEN
I'VE STORED AWAY MOST OF THE PHOTOS OF THAT CHILD THEN
BUT RIE HASN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT COMPLETELY
YES WE WANT TO FORGET THAT TOO
IT'S BETTER THAT SHE DON'T REMEMBER IT

IT'S LEFT IN THE FIRST DRAWER OF THE CABINET IN THE ROOM.
THERE IS ONE
EVEN TO US IT CAN'T BE COMPLETELY WIPED OFF FROM OUR MIND
NONE OF THE PHOTOS WERE LEFT?



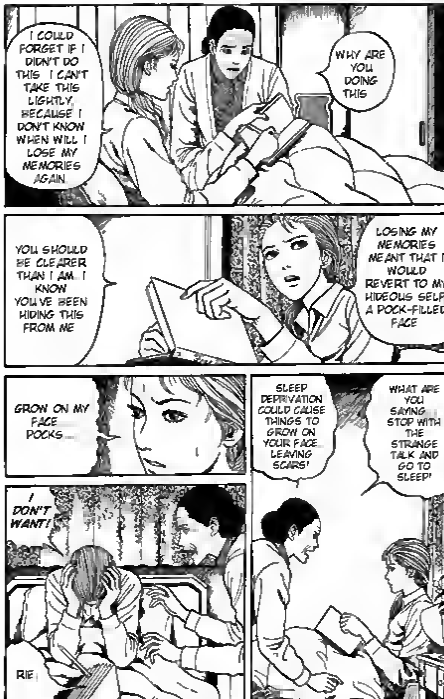
translated and edited by: eminisy.tumblr.com

AH
I KNEW IT
IT'S REAL
WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED IT
I DON'T WANT THAT MY FACE


COME ON, SHARE IT WITH ME
IS THERE SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A YEAR ALREADY. IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE, I'M WILLING TO BE YOUR LISTENING EAR
YOSUKE, IS IT POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO HAVE TWO FACES?
ON A UNREAL-ITY TOMO YOU STILL LOOK PRETTY EVEN WHEN YOU'RE TROUBLED!
LIKE JEKYLL AND HYDE? IN THE PAST THERE WAS THIS PERSON WITH SPLIT PERSONALITY AND HIS FACE CHANGES ALONG WITH IT
NOT PERSONALITY WISE, BUT PHYSICALLY.
NOT IN THAT SENSE!
LIKE A HYPOCRITE? SURE.

EM NO
WHY'D YOU ASK? THERE'S SOMEONE LIKE THAT AROUND YOUR AREA?
JEKYL AND HYDE
THAT'S RIGHT
THAT'S MY HYDE
OR MY TWO FACES HAVE APPEARED AT DIFFERENT TIME INTERVAL THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE EXISTANCE OF THOSE PRETTY PHOTOS
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN IN CONTROL FOR THAT 7 TO 9 YEARS WHERE MY MEMORY IS A BLUR
THE HIDEOUS FACE MUST REPRESENT MY EVIL SELF
THAT HYDE MUST BE HIDDEN IN MY BODY RIGHT NOW

IT'S ALREADY 3AM!
RIE! HOW LONG MORE ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE?
RIE
DON'T YOU HAVE WORK EARLY NEXT MORNING?
JUST A LITTLE MORE MOTHER
I'M WRITING A DIARY I HAVE TO WRITE DOWN EVERY DETAIL THAT HAPPENED TODAY!
I CAN WRITE UP TO 10 PAGES PER DAY
BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL. WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU WRITING ABOUT?
RIE... YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THIS RECENTLY


I COULD FORGET IF I DIDN'T DO THIS. I CAN'T TAKE THIS LIGHTLY. BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHEN WILL I LOSE MY MEMORIES AGAIN
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS
YOU SHOULD BE CLEARER THAN I AM. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HIDING THIS FROM ME
LOSING MY MEMORIES MEANT THAT I WOULD REVERT TO MY HIDEOUS SELF A POCK-FILLED FACE
GROW ON MY FACE POCKS...
SLEEP DEPRIVATION COULD CAUSE THINGS TO GROW ON YOUR FACE. LEAVING SCARS!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING. STOP WITH THE STRANGE TALK AND GO TO SLEEP!
I DON'T WANT!
RIE

I'M WORRIED THAT SHE'LL BECOME LIKE THEN
IT'S SIMILAR TO WHAT HAPPENED THEN...
DEAR, RIE HAS BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY
SHE DON'T WANT TO BE UGLY
BUT SHE KEPT SAYING THAT
YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH WHO WILL SHE KILL THIS TIME?
THE PRESENT RIE IS JUST TRYING TO BE A RESPONSIBLE GIRL. THAT'S ALL
YOU CAN'T BE SAYING THAT RIE WILL COMMIT HOMICIDE
ギ

MOTHER, FATHER
LOOK I'M SO UGLY
LOOK I'M HYDE NOW
SEE! THIS FACE... WHO GAVE BIRTH TO SUCH A FACE... MOTHER!
HAHAHA! THE OTHER ME FINALLY APPEARED!

RIE WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHY?
WHY WHY DID YOU GIVE BIRTH TO THIS KIND
IT'S MOM, RIGHT ...?
STOP IT!
RIE!
WAH!!!
WHY DID YOU GIVE BIRTH TO THIS HIDEOUS FACE?
I SAID STOP!
FATHER, I KILL'ET KILL YOU TOO!

LOOK AT YOUR OWN FACE!
YOU'RE NOT HIDEOUS!
RIE! YOU WANT HISTORY TO REPEAT ITSELF?!
HERE! LOOK CAREFULLY!
SEE!
カッ
LI LIAR
YOU WON'T TURN UGLY, YOU NEVER DID!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU KEEP THINKING YOU'LL BECOME UGLY!
HOW HOW DID

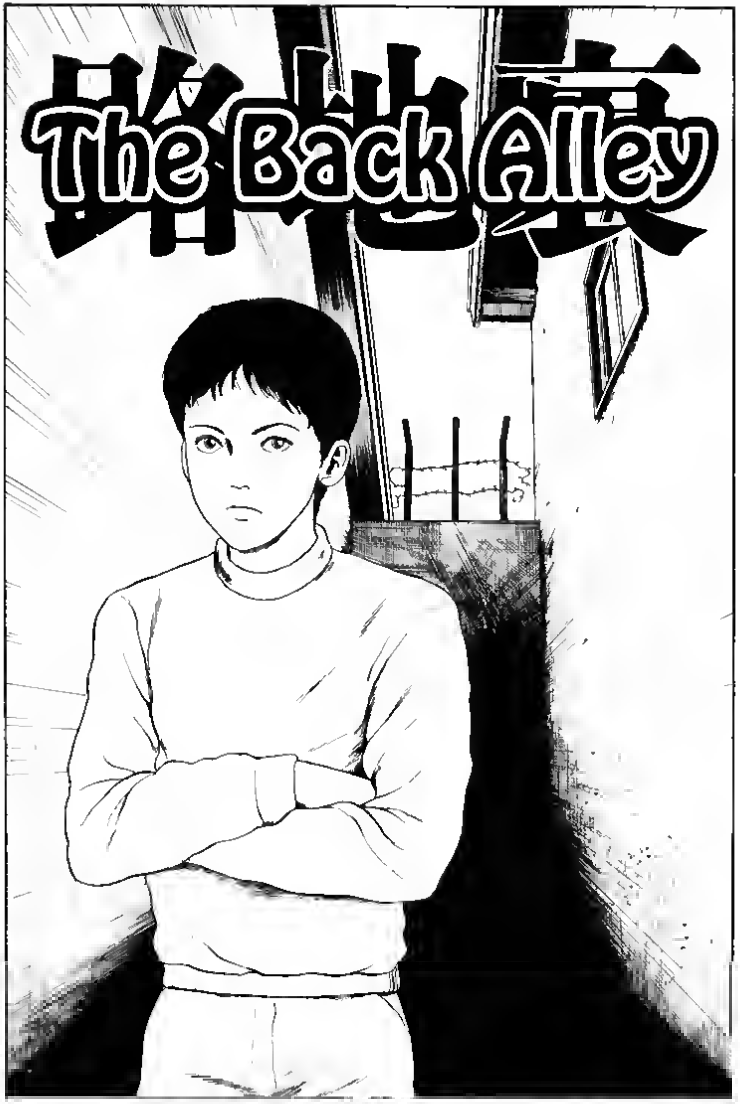
translated and edited by eminnsy.tumblr.com

DESPITE BEING FRACTURNAL TWINS, OUR LOOKS WERE WORLDS APART. WE LOOKED NOTHING LIKE EACH OTHER.
WHEN OUR FOSTER PARENTS DIED, WE RETURNED HOME. THAT WAS WHEN WE WERE 7.
AH. I RECALLED WE WERE LIVING IN A RELATIVE'S HOUSE SINCE WE WERE BORN.
BUT I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS INFLUENCED BY KEIKO.
I WASN'T THE MOST SOCIALABLE PERSON AROUND EITHER.
KEIKO WAS GROWING QUIETER AND SHYER.
MOTHER OFTEN SAT BY HER, COMFORTING HER.
WHEN PUBERTY CAME KEIKO GREW DEPRESSED AS SHE SPEND TIME STARING IN THE MIRROR.
I'VE SEEN THAT IMAGE COUNTLESS OF TIMES AS I STOOD BEHIND THEM.

I THOUGHT THE ANXIETY WOULD DISAPPEAR IF KEIKO WAS DEAD THEREFORE I STRANGLED KEIKO TO DEATH AT AGE 14
I FEARED THE POSSIBILITY THAT I WOULD BECOME MORE AND MORE SIMILAR TO KEIKO. IT MADE ME DEVASTATED
FURTHER, SHE MADE ME FEEL UNHAPPY. I FEARED THE FACT THAT SHE WAS MY TWIN SISTER
IN MY CASE KEIKO DIDN'T EXISTLY MADE ME FEEL SUPERIOR
THAT'S RIGHT. BUT WE SAID IT WAS KEIKO WHO STRANGLED HERSELF. SO NO ONE SUSPECTED ANYTHING
YES DAD. I REMEMBERED WRONGLY. THAT WASN'T ME. IT WAS KEIKO AND I KILLED HER. I THOUGHT SHE WAS ME UNCONSCIOUSLY...
IT WAS NEVER THAT IMPORTANT
UGLY OR PRETTY
WUU
BUT NOW YOUR MEMORY IS RESTORED YOU AND WE BOTH NEED TO LIVE OUR LIVES WITH THE GUILT
AND THEN YOU SUPPRESSED YOUR MEMORIES WITH KEIKO EVENTUALLY FORGETTING HER COMPLETELY

I ENDED UP KILLING YOU
BECAUSE OF MY SILLY ANXIETY
KEIKO
FOR-GIVE ME
THAT'S RIGHT. I AM THIS PRETTY
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ANYMORE ! WON'T TURN HIDEOUS
FU FU FU
FU FU FU

Memory * End.



TRANSLATED BY DANIEL LAU
EDITED BY NAEREID
DANIEL-LAU.COM

I UNDERSTAND A LOT OF STUDENTS ARE AFTER A PLACE TO STAY THIS TIME OF YEAR.
BUT I WAS KIND OF WORRIED WHETHER ANYONE WOULD ACTUALLY COME.
MR. ISHIDA, WAS IT? THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING.
YES, MY DAUGHTER'S BEEN LIVING HERE UP UNTIL NOW.
OH, NICE AND CLEAN.
IT'S JUST THAT AFTER BUSINESS QUIETED DOWN, I LET SHINOBU HAVE IT.
NO NO, IT'S FINE. THAT'S WHAT THIS ROOM WAS MADE FOR.
REALLY? I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE CHASING HER OUT OF HER ROOM ..

I SEE. I'M SORRY ...
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
MY HUSBAND, THE LANDLORD, RAN OFF ONE DAY. THOUGHT WE COULD USE THE MONEY.
HM? YES, WELL ABOUT THAT ...
SO YOU STARTED UP AGAIN?
OH, I THINK I CAN MANAGE
I'M AFRAID I MIGHT NOT MAKE IT FOR DINNER SOME NIGHTS BECAUSE OF WORK.
SURE.
BY THE WAY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE YOUR BREAKFAST DOWNSTAIRS WITH US?
CAN'T BELIEVE I FOUND A NICE PLACE IN SHITA-MACHI
MY THINGS SHOULD BE ARRIVING TOMORROW.
I'LL BE WAITING!

ピシャ
I'M JUST POPPING OUT FOR A WALK.
OK. BE CAREFUL!
THIS PART'S WALLED OFF. AND BARBED WIRE TOO?
HUH.

AH, EXCUSE ME
BE RIGHT DOWN!
MR. ISHIDA? DINNER'S READY AND WAITING!
PLEASE, TAKE A SEAT.
AH, YEAH. YOU TOO.
NICE TO MEET YOU
SHINOBU? WHERE ARE YOUR MANNERS?

THANK YOU.
COME ON, DON'T BE SHY. SHINOBU, MORE CURRY FOR OUR GUEST.
YOU'RE QUIETLY EATING AWAY THERE . . WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE?
AH, NO THANKS.
AH, I SEE.
SHE'S FOURTEEN, STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH.
SHINOBU . ARE YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL?
OH - THANK YOU.
HERE

MIGHT JUST ENJOY MY STAY HERE.
HAVING A CUTE GIRL AROUND DOESN'T HURT EITHER.
AHHH. MAYBE IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO STAY HERE AFTER ALL
MOM SAID TO BRING YOU SUPPER.
UM ...
KNOCK KNOCK
AH, COME IN!
THIS BOOKCASE IS MINE BUT I WANT YOU TO USE IT.
UM — OK? THANKS.
MR ISHIDA?
UM ...
YES?
THANK YOU BUT SUPPER, TOO? I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD —

WHEEEE HA HA HA
?
THINK I MIGHT TURN IN.
HEE HEE!
KIDS ARE STILL GOING AT IT?
IT'S PRETTY LATE ...
HA HA HA!
NO FAIR, HIRO!
HEY, CUT IT OUT!
BANG CRASH
WOO HOO! WHEEE!
I THOUGHT THERE WAS A FACTORY WAREHOUSE NEXT DOOR BUT PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIVE THERE?
THE SOUND MUST BE PRETTY CLOSE
HA HA HA!

ガラガラ
HEE HEE HEE!
HEY, COME ON!
KEEP IT DOWN OVER THERE!
WHEEE! HAHAHA!
NGH...
WOOHOO! WOO!
LET'S TAKE A LOOK
GOD.

GGH
GH!
GAHHH!
CLOSE ONE!
GR
HEY, CAN YOU .. KEEP IT
DOWN

The next day
OH, HI SHINOBU. YOU SURPRISED ME.
UM, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME HELP?
ササッ
NO, IT'S OK. I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF HEAVY STUFF.
カタッ

AND HEY, BEFORE I FORGET.
OH THANKS.
SOMETHING WEIRD HAPPENED LAST NIGHT.
AHH. WELL YOU KNOW, THERE'S NOTHING BUT ALLEYS AROUND HERE EVEN FAR OFF NOISES CAN SOUND CLOSE SOMETIMES.
I COULDN'T TELL FOR SURE, IT WAS SO DARK. BUT THE NOISE DEFINITELY CAME FROM THAT FENCED-OFF ALLEY.
IT WAS LATE, BUT I HEARD KIDS' VOICES COMING FROM JUST BEYOND THIS WALL. BUT I CHECKED, AND THERE WAS NOTHING.
HUH?
WAIT A SECOND.
OH I SEE.
IT REALLY DOES SOUND LIKE THEY'RE RIGHT ROUND THE CORNER, HUH.
IT WAS THE SAME WHEN I LIVED HERE.

BUT ... YOU COULD'VE FALLEN AND HURT YOURSELF! PLEASE, PROMISE YOU WON'T ANYMORE.
I WON'T, I WON'T RELAX
I CLIMBED OUT THE WINDOW THERE. BUT IT WAS SO DARK ..
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU "CHECKED"?
I WAS HAPPY JUST TO MAKE IT BACK TO MY ROOM ALIVE.
IT WAS PRETTY DANGEROUS, ACTUALLY. CAME CLOSE TO SLIPPING A BUNCH OF TIMES.
HA HA HA!
HEE HEE!
LIFE'S NOT SOME-THING TO THROW AWAY.
GEEZ . I'M HAPPY YOU'RE SAFE THOUGH
DON'T GET ALL TEARY ON ME
HA!
WELL I HOPE NOT!
SO DON'T WORRY. NEVER AGAIN!

WOO! HAHA!
AGAIN?
WHEEE! HA HA!
PSSST PSSST
HUH?
SHIMO-FUUU
SHIMO-FUUU
PSSST PSSST
IT'S NO KID THIS TIME.
THAT'S SOMEONE CHATTING AWAY

SHINOBUUU
SHINOBUUU
WHO IS THAT? AND WHY ARE THEY CALLING SHI-NOBU?
SHINOBUUU
SHINOBUUU
WHO ON EARTH...?
SHINOBUUU
SHINOBUUU
GOD, I CAN'T STAND THAT VOICE...
AND WHY WOULD IT BE CALLING SHINOBU?!
WHAT WAS THAT VOICE?

WELL ... YEAH.
YOU'VE GOT THE SECOND FLOOR ROOM AT THE UCHIYAMA HOUSE, RIGHT?
HEY ... GOT A SEC?
HUH?
I'D BE SOMEONE WHO LIVED IN THE ROOM YOU'RE IN NOW. TEN YEARS AGO.
AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
I GOT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW.
I'D LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO FORGET THIS. BUT IT SEEMS I CAN'T, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY.
EVERY NIGHT, I SEE IT AGAIN IN MY DREAMS
AND? WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL ME?
UM ... OK.

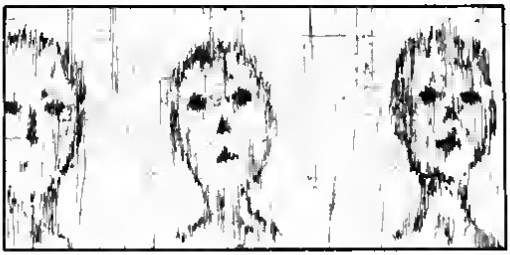
YOU PROBABLY KNOW ABOUT THE NARROW, FENCED-OFF ALLEY NEXT TO YOUR PLACE
THE ONE WITH BARBED WIRE STRUNG UP?
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S A SPACE THAT'S BEEN SEALED UP IN THERE.
MOST LIKELY, PEOPLE AROUND HERE WANTED TO SEAL IT AWAY AND FORGET ABOUT IT.
SOMEONE WAS MURDERED IN THERE
WHAT?!
YEAH. I SAW IT. IN A CORNER OF THAT LITTLE ALLEY, THERE'S A HATCH THAT LEADS UNDERGROUND.
AND HIDDEN AWAY INSIDE, THERE'S THE BODIES OF THREE DEAD LITTLE KIDS.
THREE KIDS?!
AND IT GETS EVEN WORSE.
ON THE WALL ABOVE THE HATCH, FLOATING THERE — THERE'S THREE STAINS, SHAPED LIKE KIDS

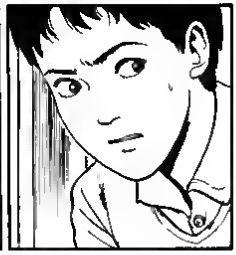
SAW THOSE KIDS COME OUT OF THE WALLS AT NIGHT, AND GO RUNNING AROUND THAT ALLEY.
AND EVEN THAT'S NOT ALL I SAW IT.
YOU'LL KNOW IT IF YOU SEE IT. DEFINITELY CHILDREN.
COULD BE THAT THE SPIRITS OF THE MURDERED KIDS ROSE UP AND SETTLED THERE
STAINS?
YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT?
DAMN, YOU NEARLY HAD ME. COME ON, I GIVE YOU TIME OUT OF MY DAY FOR THIS?
IT WAS REAL SCARY, MAN. AND EVERY NIGHT, SHAKING, I CHECKED IT OUT FROM MY WINDOW.
HERE'S THE PROOF. YOU SAID YOU SAW IT FROM YOUR WINDOW. BUT THERE ISN'T ONE THAT LOOKS OUT ONTO THAT ALLEY.
IT WAS A DREAM.
HEY I WANT TO BELIEVE MORE THAN ANYTHING THAT IT WAS A DREAM. MAYBE IT WAS. BUT THOSE BODIES THEY WERE ALL TOO REAL

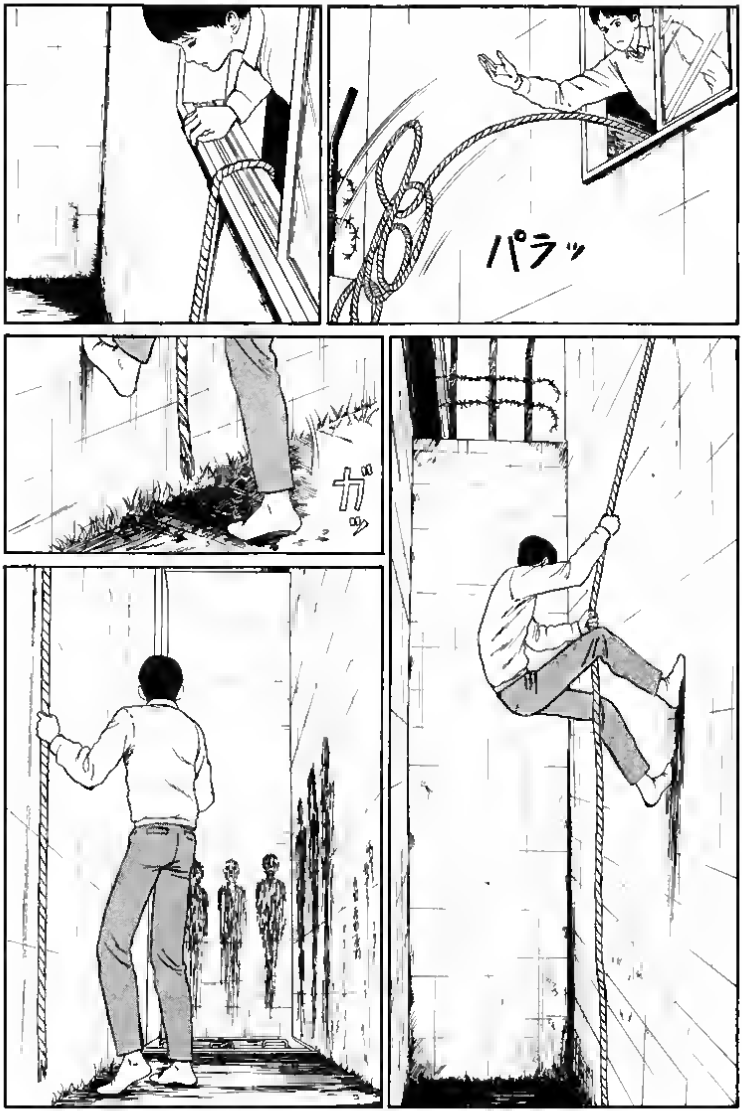
THERE MUST BE. THERE SHOULD BE A LITTLE WINDOW IN THERE.
NO.
AND THEN I WANT YOU TO SEE FOR YOURSELF WAS WHAT I SAW REAL, OR A DREAM?
YOU HAVE TO CHECK FOR ME.
THERE IS/ ON THE EAST WALL.
THOSE KIDS DESERVE A PROPER BURIAL SERVICE.
IF YOU FIND THE BODIES . YOU HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE.
AND THEN MAYBE THESE GODDAMN DREAMS WILL LEAVE ME.
I WANTED TO BE THE ONE WHO FOUND OUT THE TRUTH.
BUT YOU'RE THE BEST MAN FOR THE JOB NOW.

THE VOICES OF THOSE KIDS I HEARD, THOUGH. DEFINITELY CAME FROM THERE.
BUT STILL, KIDS FLOATING OUT OF THE WALL? COME ON ...
THIS IS BULLSHIT. SOME KIND OF TRICK ...
!
AIN'T NO SECRET WINDOW IN HERE EITHER
UFF!
NO WAY ... IT COULDN'T BE

OF COURSE! WHEN I LOOKED OVER THE WALL, THERE WAS A WINDOW ON THIS SIDE.
WHY DIDN'T I REALISE ...
ガラガラ
WHAT'S THIS ROPE FOR ...






パラッ
ガッ

BUT THERE'S SIX
SHIT KILL YOU
THE THREE KIDS . . AND THREE ADULTS, TOO.
HE WAS RIGHT . . STAINS . HUMAN STAINS.
AND WHAT'S THIS GODAWFUL GRAFFITI?
LITTLE SHIT
STAB YOU
KILL YOU
FUCK OFF
DIE
HAHAHA YES
KILLED YOU
DEAD DEAD DEAD DEAD
SHUT UP DAD
DIE ALREADY
HATE YOU
WHOLE CLASS HATES YOU

LITTLE SHIT
STAB YOU
KILL YOU
FU
DICK
ガン
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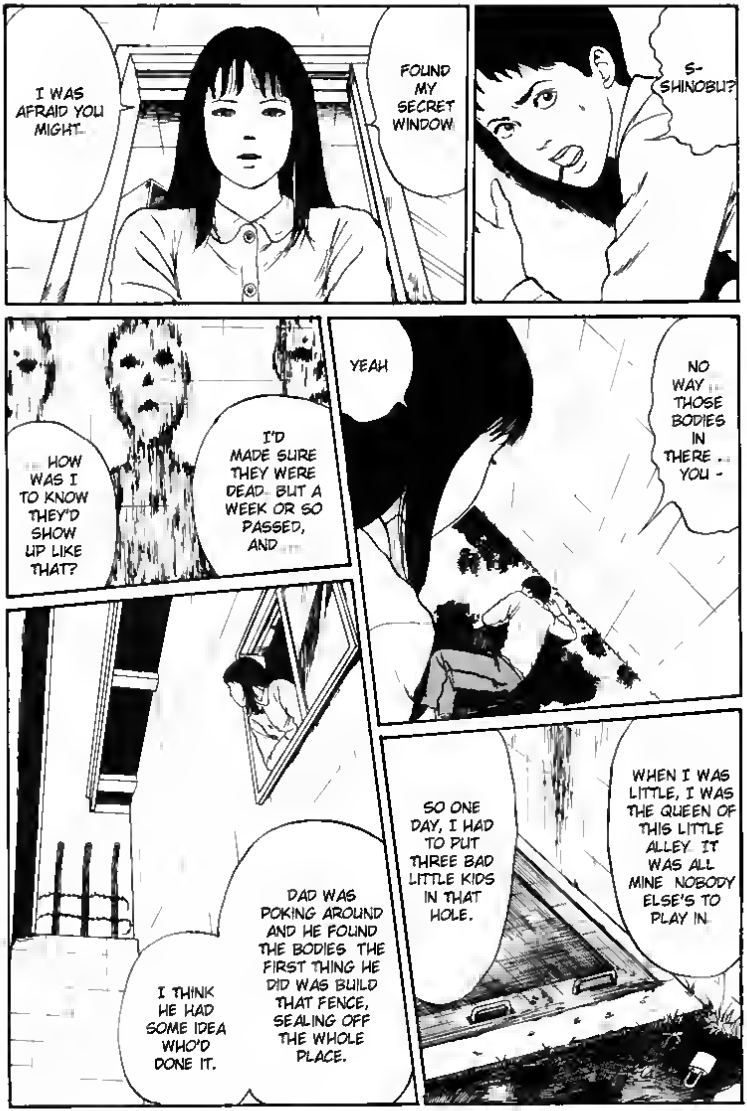
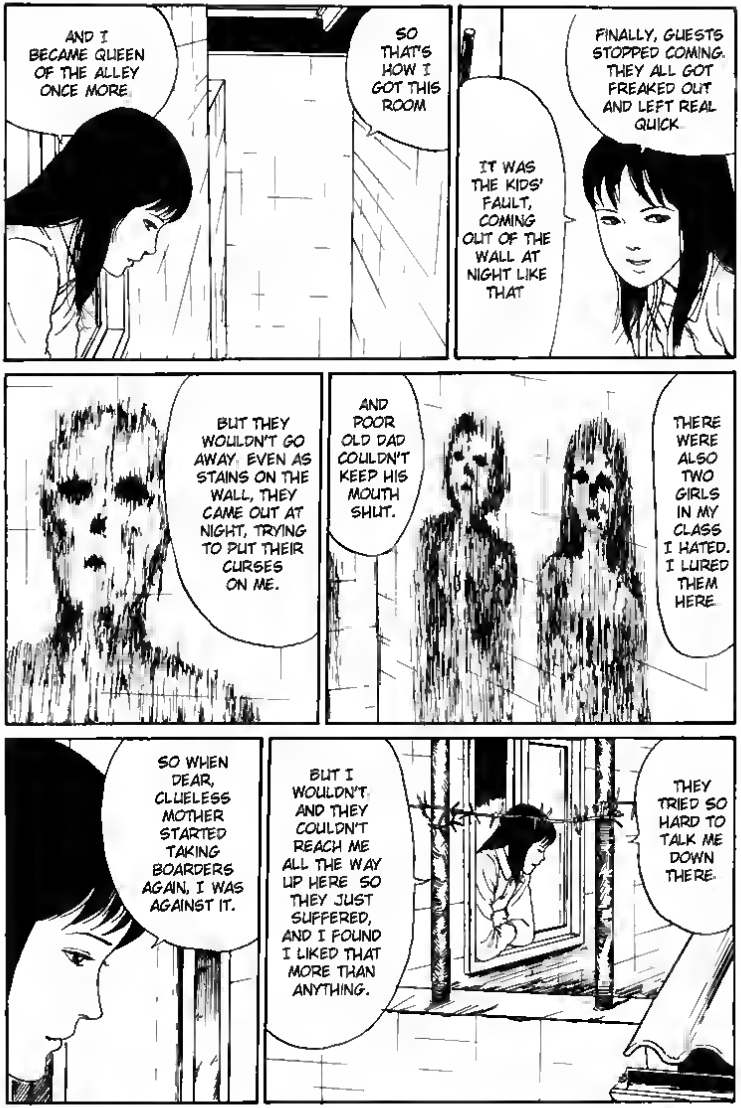
ガン

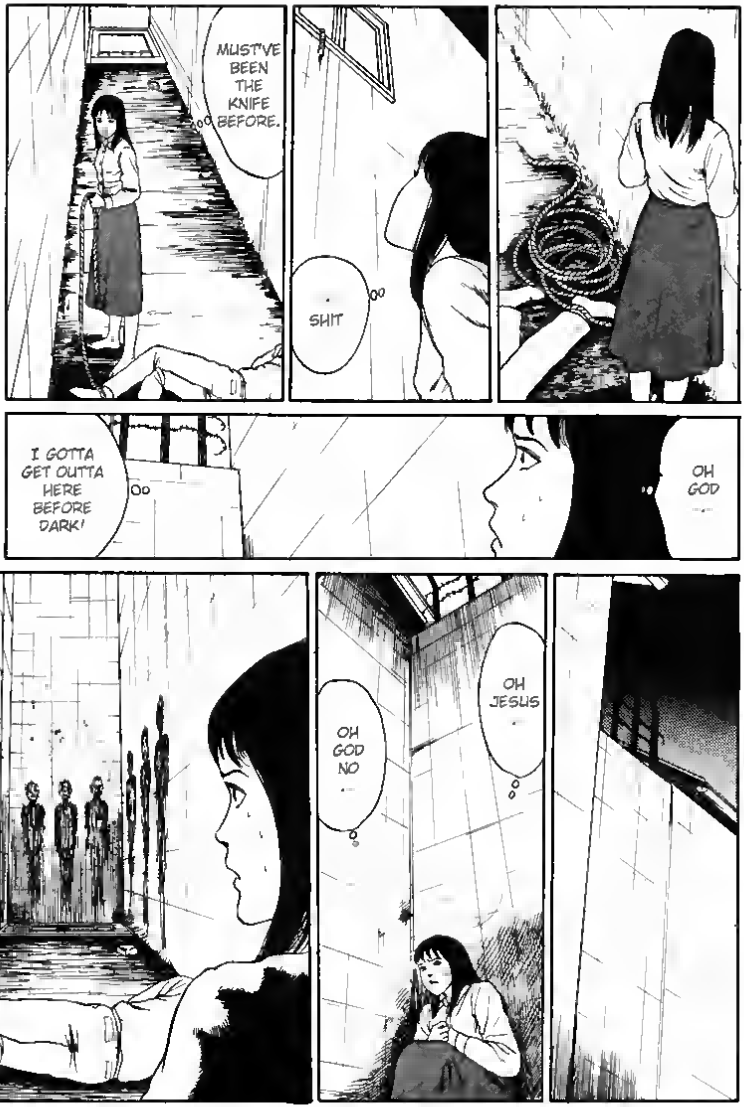
AHH!
I'M CALLING RIGHT NOW
THE COPS..
OH GOD .. HE WAS RIGHT..

ガッ
UGHH -
ビタン!
スルスル
GAHHH!

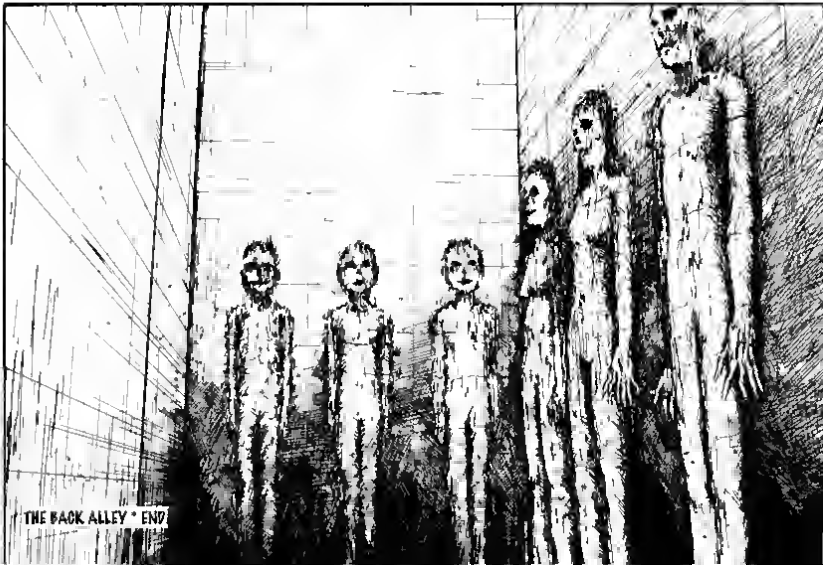

I WAS AFRAID YOU MIGHT...
FOUND MY SECRET WINDOW
S-SHINOBU?
NO WAY... THOSE BODIES IN THERE... YOU -
YEAH
I'D MADE SURE THEY WERE DEAD. BUT A WEEK OR SO PASSED, AND...
...HOW WAS I TO KNOW THEY'D SHOW UP LIKE THAT?
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I WAS THE QUEEN OF THIS LITTLE ALLEY. IT WAS ALL MINE. NOBODY ELSE'S TO PLAY IN.
SO ONE DAY, I HAD TO PUT THREE BAD LITTLE KIDS IN THAT HOLE.
DAD WAS POKING AROUND AND HE FOUND THE BODIES. THE FIRST THING HE DID WAS BUILD THAT FENCE, SEALING OFF THE WHOLE PLACE.
I THINK HE HAD SOME IDEA WHO'D DONE IT.


AND I BECAME QUEEN OF THE ALLEY ONCE MORE.
SO THAT'S HOW I GOT THIS ROOM
FINALLY, GUESTS STOPPED COMING. THEY ALL GOT FREAKED OUT AND LEFT REAL QUICK.
IT WAS THE KIDS' FAULT, COMING OUT OF THE WALL AT NIGHT LIKE THAT
BUT THEY WOULDN'T GO AWAY. EVEN AS STAINS ON THE WALL, THEY CAME OUT AT NIGHT, TRYING TO PUT THEIR CURSES ON ME.
AND POOR OLD DAD COULDN'T KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT.
THERE WERE ALSO TWO GIRLS IN MY CLASS I HATED. I LURED THEM HERE.
SO WHEN DEAR, CLUELESS MOTHER STARTED TAKING BOARDERS AGAIN, I WAS AGAINST IT.
BUT I WOULDN'T. AND THEY COULDN'T REACH ME ALL THE WAY UP HERE SO THEY JUST SUFFERED, AND I FOUND I LIKED THAT MORE THAN ANYTHING.
THEY TRIED SO HARD TO TALK ME DOWN THERE.

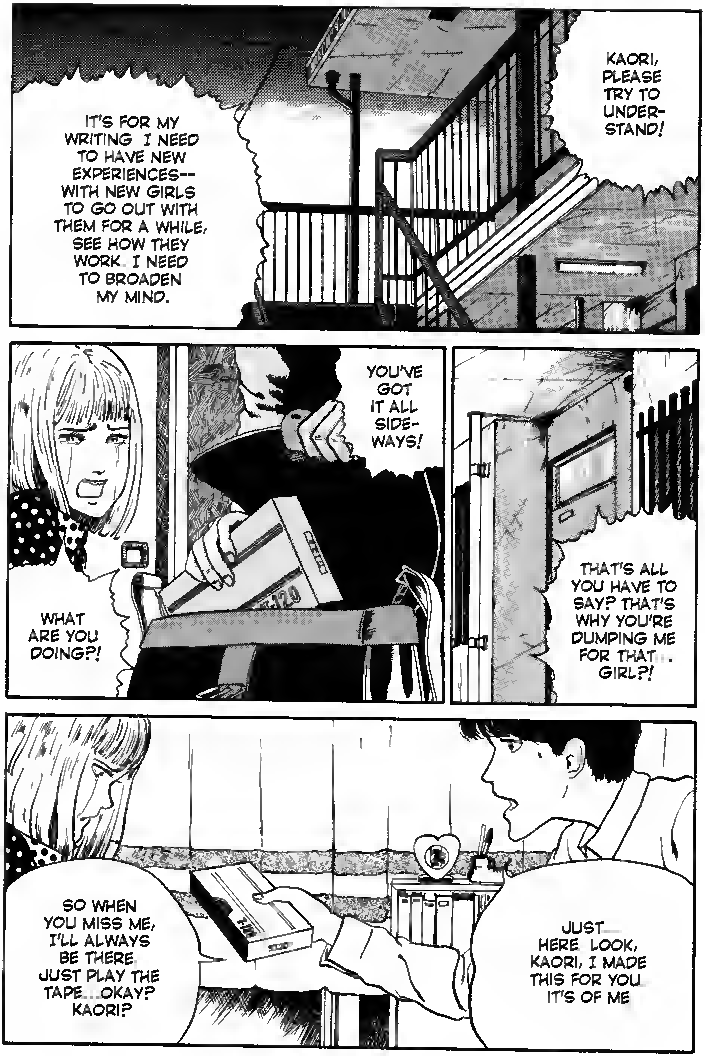
HE'S ALREADY OUT.
HA HA.
MR. ISHIDA?
SEE, I REALLY HAD NOTHING AGAINST YOU
GOOD TIMING. BETTER CLEAN UP BEFORE SUN-DOWN.
ぶちっ…
ぶちっ
パラッ

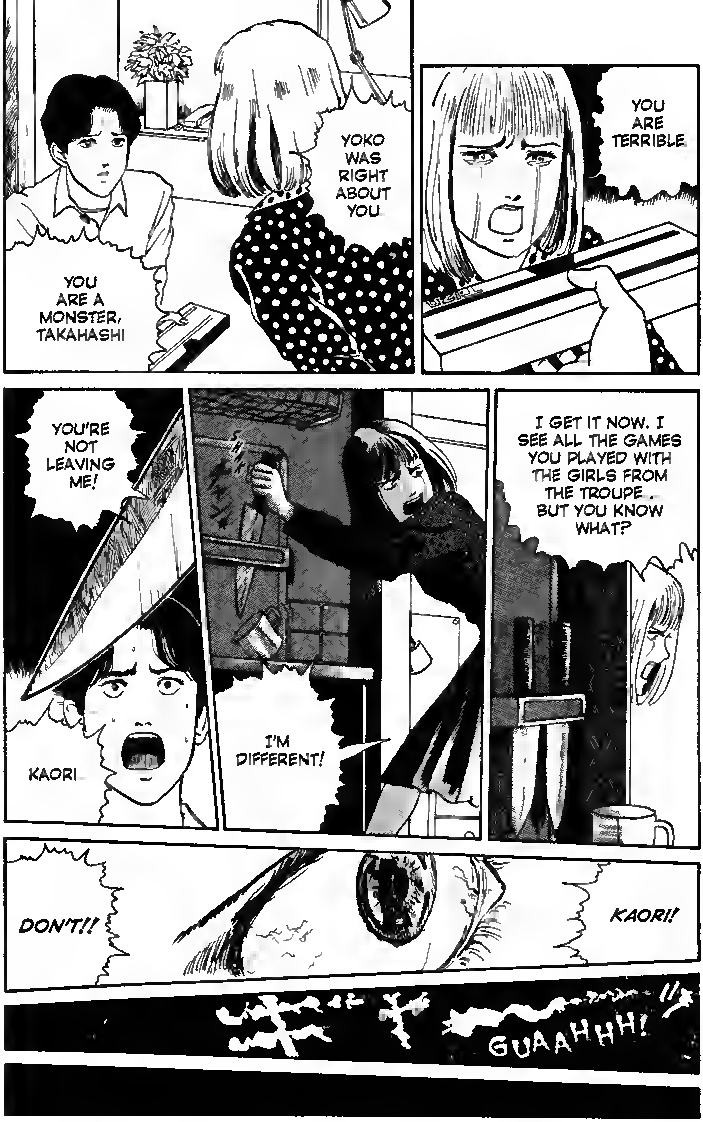

MUST'VE BEEN THE KNIFE BEFORE.
SHIT
I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE DARK!
OH GOD
OH JESUS
OH GOD NO

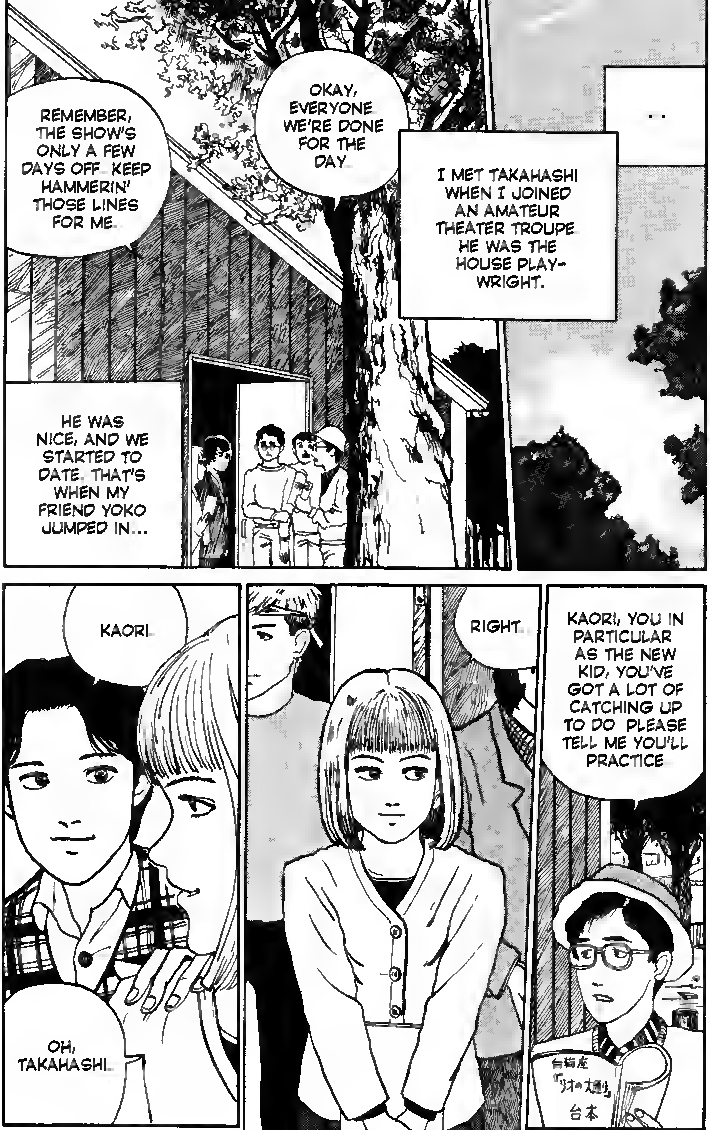
NO!
ガタガタ


THE BACK ALLEY * END

シナリオどおりの恋
LOVE AS SCRIPTED


IT'S FOR MY WRITING. I NEED TO HAVE NEW EXPERIENCES-- WITH NEW GIRLS TO GO OUT WITH THEM FOR A WHILE, SEE HOW THEY WORK. I NEED TO BROADEN MY MIND.
KAORI, PLEASE TRY TO UNDER-STAND!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL SIDE-WAYS!
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY? THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DUMPING ME FOR THAT GIRL?!
SO WHEN YOU MISS ME, I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE. JUST PLAY THE TAPE...OKAY? KAORI?
JUST... HERE. LOOK, KAORI, I MADE THIS FOR YOU. IT'S OF ME

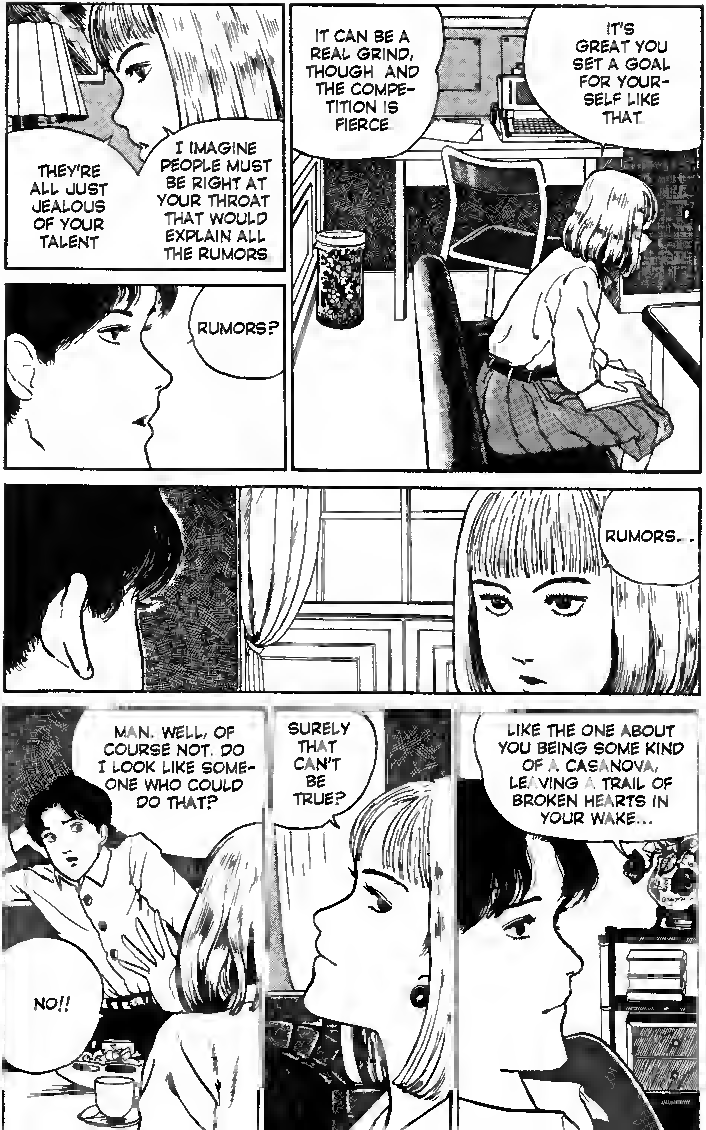

YOU ARE A MONSTER, TAKAHASHI
YOKO WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU
YOU ARE TERRIBLE
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING ME!
KAORI
I'M DIFFERENT!
I GET IT NOW. I SEE ALL THE GAMES YOU PLAYED WITH THE GIRLS FROM THE TROUPE. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?
DON'T!!
KAORI!!
GUAAHHH!


REMEMBER, THE SHOW'S ONLY A FEW DAYS OFF. KEEP HAMMERIN' THOSE LINES FOR ME.
OKAY, EVERYONE WE'RE DONE FOR THE DAY.
I MET TAKAHASHI WHEN I JOINED AN AMATEUR THEATER TROUPE. HE WAS THE HOUSE PLAY-WRIGHT.
HE WAS NICE, AND WE STARTED TO DATE. THAT'S WHEN MY FRIEND YOKO JUMPED IN...
KAORI.
OH, TAKAHASHI.
RIGHT.
KAORI, YOU IN PARTICULAR AS THE NEW KID, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF CATCHING UP TO DO. PLEASE TELL ME YOU'LL PRACTICE
台詞座「灯の大通り」台本

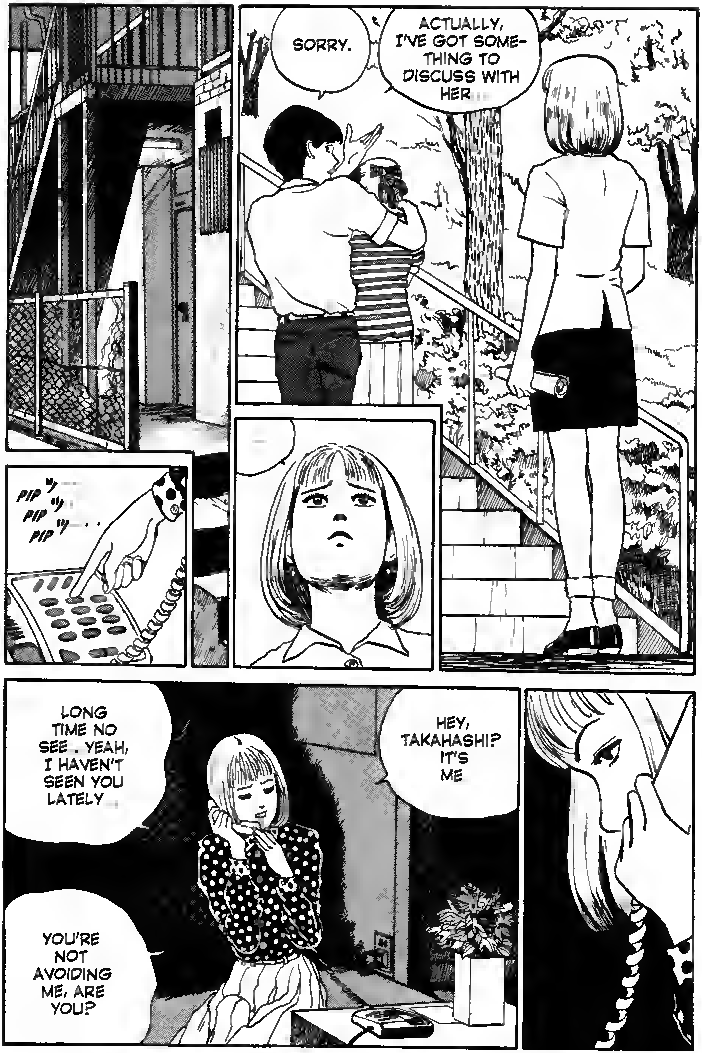
HEY, KAORI. C'MERE A MINUTE.
AFTER ALL, IT IS MY SCRIPT, YOU KNOW
YOU WANNA COME BY MY PLACE AND PRACTICE?
AW, YOKO!
SORRY, TAKAHASHI. WE'VE ALREADY GOT PLANS.
OKAY.
STOP HANGING AROUND WITH THAT GUY!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT PLANS?
YOKO! LET GO!!
YOU'RE JUST SEEING THE ONE SIDE OF HIM.
NO!
BUT WHY? HE'S NICE, HE'S SWEET...

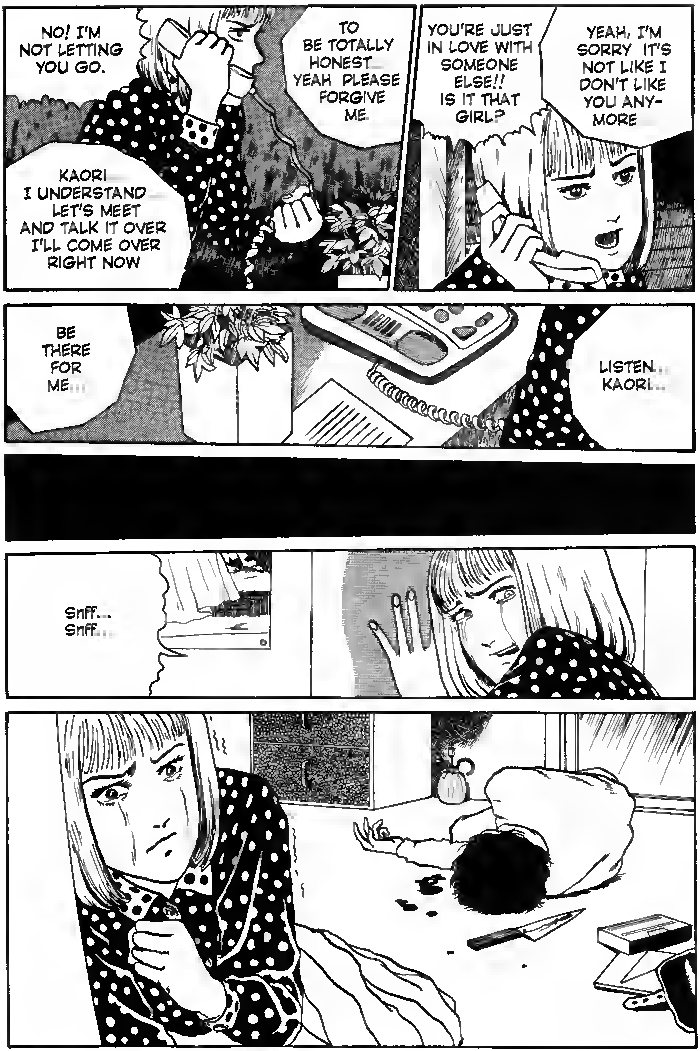
THAT JERK USES THEM UP AND TOSSES 'EM OUT LIKE HIS WRITING PAPER
ARRGH, IF I KNEW THIS WAS COMING, I WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED YOU TO COME JOIN
LOOK, YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW MANY GIRLS FROM THE TROUPE THAT GUY'S LAID OUT
IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF SILLY IDOL VIDEO--EXCEPT STARRING HIM!
FROM WHAT I HEAR, HE GIVES THEM THESE VIDEO-TAPES HE MAKES
AND YOU KNOW, THE WORST PART IS HOW HE BREAKS UP WITH THEM.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M MAKING THIS UP
KAORI, LOOK.
KAORI!
THE LEVEL OF CONCEIT IS JUST SICKENING
HE'LL SAY SOME CRAP LIKE, "I'M LEAVING NOW, BUT HERE I AM ON THIS TAPE-- SO IF YOU EVER GET LONELY, GO AHEAD AND WATCH IT."
T-120

IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE. I HAD FALLEN IN LOVE.
OF COURSE, I IGNORED HER WARNING.
OH, ANTONIO...
YEAH, KAORI. THAT WAS GOOD. JUST KEEP THAT UP.
YOU'RE REALLY IMPROVING.
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF
REMEMBER THE MUSIC? IT'S STILL WITHIN YOU.
WHAT'S GOOD IS THE SCRIPT.
YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT WRITER.
TAKAHASHI, ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO PRO WITH IT?
OF COURSE. IDEALLY I'D LIKE TO DO SOME TV SERIES. I'M WORKING MYSELF UP TO IT.


THEY'RE ALL JUST JEALOUS OF YOUR TALENT
I IMAGINE PEOPLE MUST BE RIGHT AT YOUR THROAT THAT WOULD EXPLAIN ALL THE RUMORS
RUMORS?
IT CAN BE A REAL GRIND, THOUGH AND THE COMPE-TITION IS FIERCE
IT'S GREAT YOU SET A GOAL FOR YOUR-SELF LIKE THAT
RUMORS...
MAN. WELL, OF COURSE NOT. DO I LOOK LIKE SOME-ONE WHO COULD DO THAT?
NO!!
SURELY THAT CAN'T BE TRUE?
LIKE THE ONE ABOUT YOU BEING SOME KIND OF A CASANOVA, LEAVING A TRAIL OF BROKEN HEARTS IN YOUR WAKE...

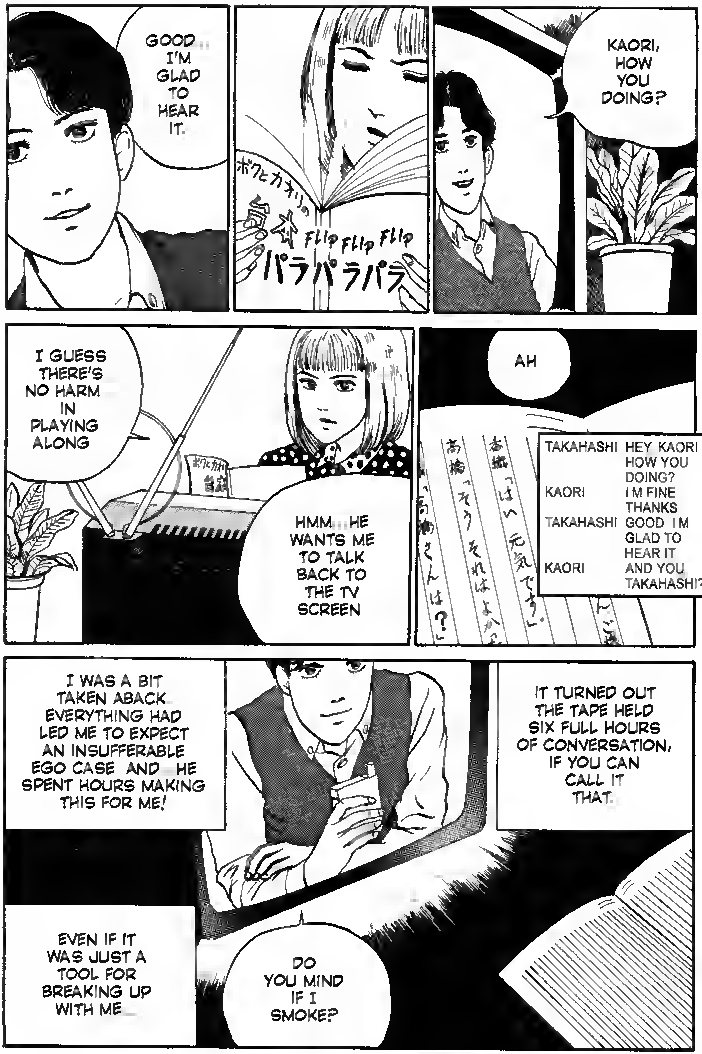
WE FOUND A SMALL VENUE FOR OUR PERFORMANCE-- A TINY TOWN HALL --AND IT WAS QUITE WELL RECEIVED.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS HEAD OVER HEELS FOR TAKAHASHI
BUT, YOKO WAS RIGHT...
TAKAHASHI WAS ALREADY ACTING DIFFERENTLY TOWARD ME.
YOU GOT TIME, LATER TODAY?
TAKA-HASHI.
WHEN IT CAME TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT PLAY.
SHE'S OUR BIG FAN.
WHO'S THIS?
...


SORRY.
ACTUALLY, I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH HER...
PIP
PIP
PIP
HEY, TAKAHASHI? IT'S ME
LONG TIME NO SEE. YEAH, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU LATELY...
YOU'RE NOT AVOIDING ME, ARE YOU?


NO! I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO.
TO BE TOTALLY HONEST... YEAH. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
KAORI... I UNDERSTAND... LET'S MEET AND TALK IT OVER I'LL COME OVER RIGHT NOW
YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE!! IS IT THAT GIRL?
YEAH, I'M SORRY IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T LIKE YOU ANY-MORE...
BE THERE FOR ME...
LISTEN... KAORI...
Sniff... Sniff...

WHAT DO I DO? WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
KAORI AND I SCRIPT ①
KAORI YEAH
TAKAHASHI THAT'S WHY MY UNCLE'S PLACE IN THE COUNTRY AS EXPECTED WATER THERE TASTY
KAORI I ALWAYS ENVIED THIS TYPE OF
TAKAHASHI SURELY
KAORI BY THE WAY I READ ALL OF THEM THEY WERE GOOD EVEN FELT
DID HE WRITE THIS?
A SCRIPT?
ボクとカオリの台本①

EVERY PAGE IS FILLED WITH HIS WRITING...
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE A CONVERSATION BETWEEN US?
WHAT IS ALL THIS?
THE TAPE... NO, IT CAN'T BE... CAN IT?
SH-SHAK
CHOK
HEY!


GOOD... I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.
Flip Flip Flip
パラパラパラ
KAORI, HOW YOU DOING?
I GUESS THERE'S NO HARM IN PLAYING ALONG
HMM... HE WANTS ME TO TALK BACK TO THE TV SCREEN
AH
TAKAHASHI HEY KAORI HOW YOU DOING?
KAORI I'M FINE THANKS
TAKAHASHI GOOD I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT AND YOU TAKAHASHI?
KAORI
I WAS A BIT TAKEN ABACK... EVERYTHING HAD LED ME TO EXPECT AN INSUFFERABLE EGO CASE AND... HE SPENT HOURS MAKING THIS FOR ME!
IT TURNED OUT THE TAPE HELD SIX FULL HOURS OF CONVERSATION, IF YOU CAN CALL IT THAT.
EVEN IF IT WAS JUST A TOOL FOR BREAKING UP WITH ME...
DO YOU MIND IF I SMOKE?

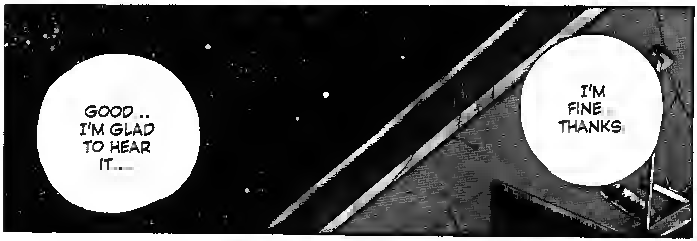
KAORI... HOW ABOUT WE GO CHECK OUT A MOVIE?
EVENTUALLY, I SETTLED INTO A GROOVE.
WHAT MOVIE?
THEY'RE SHOWING *BLACK OCCULT* AGAIN.
I... ACTUALLY, I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT'S IT ABOUT?
KOTARO SHIRONE. YOU KNOW, THE TROUPE LEADER? DON'T YOU THINK HE'S A BIT OF A HARD-ASS?
AT FIRST, IT DIDN'T GO SO WELL.
Y... YEAH, I ALWAYS er...
BACK WHEN YOU JUST JOINED, THE WAY HE SPOKE ABOUT YOU IT STUNG.
YEAH... um...
HE'S ALIVE!
HE IS ALIVE, INSIDE THE TUBE!
I STARTED TO SEE PAST THE SCRIPT AND ITS LIMITATIONS, AND I BEGAN IMAGINING I WAS CHATTING WITH HIM FOR REAL.
I BECAME SO ABSORBED, I EVEN FORGOT I'D KILLED HIM.
AND HE'S ALL MINE FOREVER.

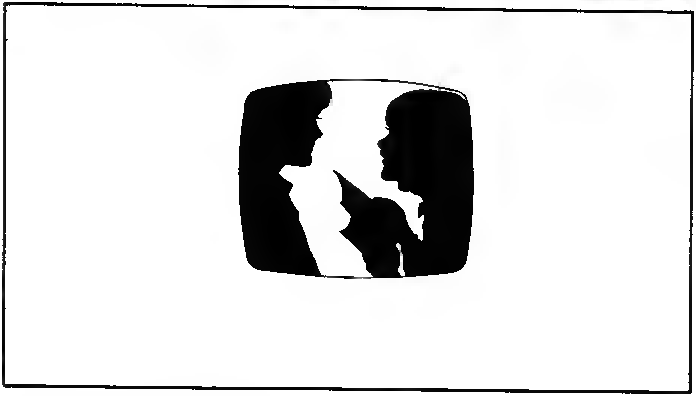
KAORI!!!
BABUMP
KA KAORI...
TA-TAKA-HASHI!
CALL... CALL AN AMBULANCE... PLEASE
AHH!

YOU'RE... STILL ALIVE. OH, NO
KAORI HELP ME
QUICK... IF I KEEP BLEEDING LIKE THIS, I'M DONE FOR
KAORI...
DON'T WORRY... IT'S ALL OVER NOW.
JUST, PLEASE
I'LL... I'LL EVEN MARRY YOU.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? IF I DIE, YOU'LL BE GUILTY OF MURDER. JUST HELP ME, AND I WON'T PRESS CHARGES.
TAKA-HASHI
I... I MEAN... I WON'T EVEN BREAK UP WITH YOU.

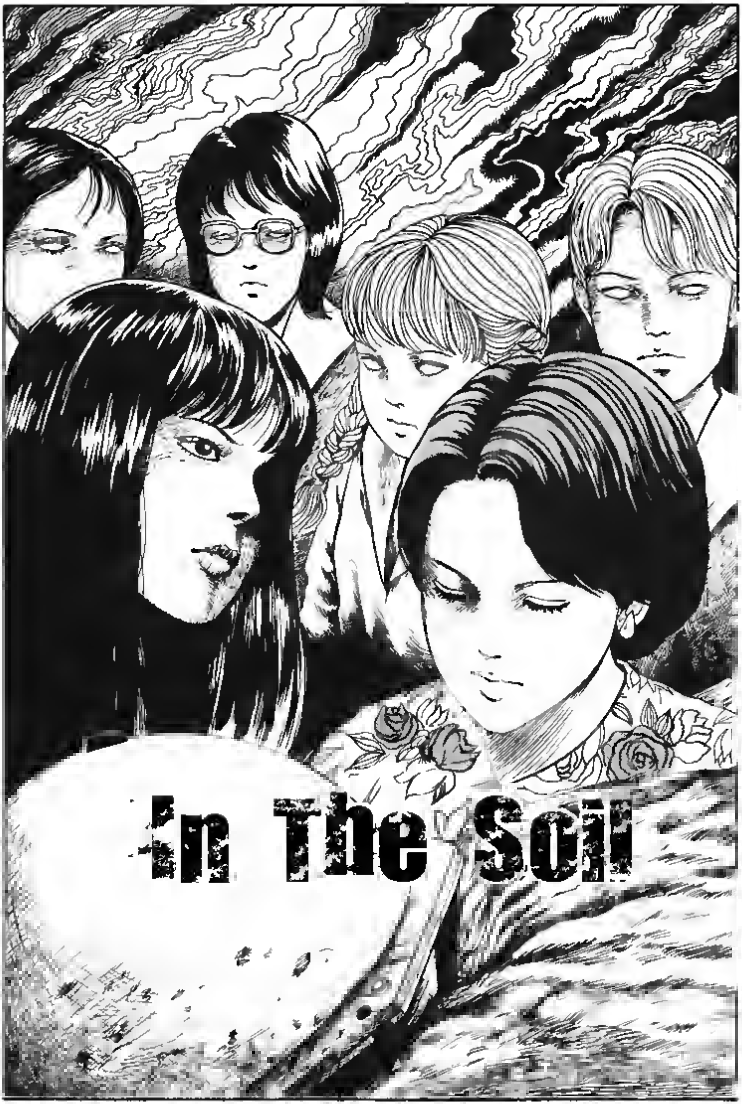
I DON'T NEED YOU.
YOU SEE, THE TAKAHASHI I LOVE...
...IS OVER THERE.
I LOVE YOU TOO, HON.
I LOVE YOU.
KAORI

ALL IT CAN DO IS REPEAT THE SAME WORDS, OVER AND OVER! YOU KNOW HOW BORING THAT WILL GET?
WUH... WHAT ARE YOU, CRAZY? THAT'S JUST A VIDEO.
I KNOW HE'LL NEVER BETRAY ME.
NOT LIKE YOU.
...A TRULY GREAT WORK WILL NEVER FADE.
THAT'S JUST IT, THOUGH. HOWEVER MUCH TIME PASSES...
KAOR!!!
NO... DON'T...
AND YOUR SCRIPT IS INCRED-IBLE.
!





LOVE AS SCRIPTED / THE END



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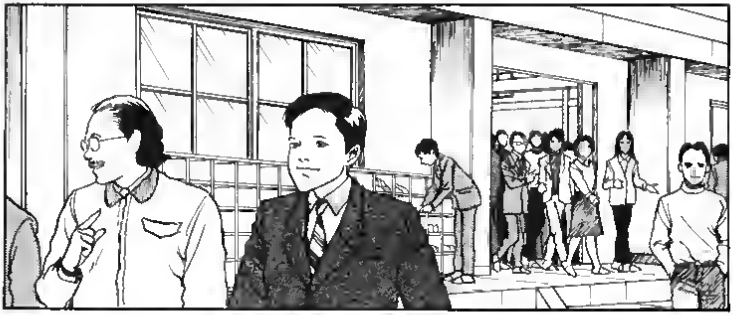
raws provided by marie

ガヤガヤ
昭和60年度 卒業生
同窓会会場
I AM HONESTLY SURPRISED, TERANISHI-SAN! YOU'RE ALREADY A MOTHER OF THREE CHILDREN, YET YOU STILL LOOK AS GREAT AS EVER! OH RIGHT, YOU'RE YAMAGUCHI-SAN NOW!
I'M FINE WITH MY MAIDEN NAME, EJJI-SAN. ANYWAY, IT HAS BEEN TWENTY YEARS SINCE OUR GRADUATION!
ガヤガヤ
ガヤガヤ

AH... COULD YOU BE LOOKING FOR YOUR FIRST LOVE?
TERANISHI-SAN, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?
キョロ
キョロ
DO REMINISCE ON THE PAST AT A LATER TIME, IT'S TIME FOR OUR MAIN EVENT,
AH! IT'S SUCH A GREAT DAY TODAY! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
OH GOSH, NO!
TO DIG UP THE TIME CAPSULE WE SOW 20 YEARS BACK!
HA HA HA!
DEAR GUESTS, PLEASE HEAD TOWARDS THE SCHOOL GARDEN!



WE BURIED A TIME CAPSULE IN THIS AREA TO COMMEMORATE OUR GRADUATION TWENTY YEARS AGO...
AH... I REMEMBER...

EVERYONE'S ESSAYS, LETTERS, ARTWORKS AND EVEN THE OLD CLOCK FROM THE SCHOOL BUILDING WERE INCLUDED INSIDE THE CAPSULE...
OUR MEMORIES FROM JUNIOR HIGH WAS SEALED UP IN THIS CAPSULE, DEEP IN SLUMBER UNDER THE EARTH FOR SO MANY YEARS.

HMM?
TERANISHI-SAN.
OH, HOW WE'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY!
WHEN EVERYONE CAN READ THE LETTERS THAT WERE WRITTEN TO THEM BY THEIR CLASSMATES
IT'S FOR THIS DAY THAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR TWENTY YEARS.
I WROTE A LETTER FOR YOU THEN
WHAT?
EH... WHO DID I WRITE IT TO?
IT'S BEEN TWENTY YEARS... IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN
TERANISHI-SAN, WHO DID YOU DEDICATE YOUR LETTER TO?
AH... YOU WROTE ONE FOR ME? THANK YOU.
AH, I'VE BEEN DIGGING TILL MY BACK IS SORE! IS THERE ANYONE THAT CAN SWITCH WITH ME?

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IT'S REALLY DEEP DOWN!
THERE WAS NO NEED TO HAVE TO BURIED SO DEEP THOUGH, I'M SURE NO ONE WOULD HAVE WANTED TO STEAL IT.
IT REPRESENTS OUR YOUTH, OUR DEEP FEELINGS FOR ONE ANOTHER.
カキ
HEY!
THE SHELL IS VISIBLE ALREADY!
GOSH, SENSEI, I REALLY ADMIRE YOU!
HA HA HA HA
THIS HOLE WAS DUG BY ME, NOW YOU CAN SEE HOW "DEEP" MY LOVE IS FOR MY STUDENTS!
SENSEI!
YOU'RE WRONG.

THAT'S TRUE, EVERYONE GOT ALONG VERY WELL
TALKING ABOUT THAT, WE REALLY BONDED WELL WHEN WE WERE STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY THE GIRLS!
WELL ... EXCEPT FOR HER ...
YES... WE WERE VERY UNITED ...
... OUR CLASS EVEN CLENCHED FIRST PLACE.
DURING SPORTS DAY TOO...
OUR CAMPING BESIDE THE HANANO LAKE WAS SO MEMORABLE.
SHINODA-SAN...
AH RIGHT ...
WHO?
HER?
SHINODA KUMI

SHIN-ODA KUMI
SHE'S THE ONLY ODD BALL IN OUR CLASS
SHE LOOKS PERFECTLY NORMAL, BUT SHE'S MENTALLY UNSOUND
MOST OF US JUST IGNORES HER,
BUT SOMETIMES THERE IS NO CHOICE BUT TO LISTEN TO HER TALK ABOUT HER PAST.
AS LONG AS THERE'S ANYTHING OBSTRUCTING HER, SHE WOULD COMPLAIN NON-STOP,
THOSE STUDENTS WHO SAT AROUND HER WERE CONSTANTLY ANNOYED BY HER BEHAVIOUR.
SHE WAS COMPLETELY ISOLATED FROM OUR CLASSMATES SINCE THE INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.

WHY SHOULD SHE BE THE LEAD?
TAKAYAMA AS THE LEADING ROLE? WHAT IS THIS, A JOKE? SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ONE-FIFTH OF HOW THE MAIN CHARACTER SHOULD BE POTRAYED AS!
THE CLASS DECIDED ON PUTTING UP A PLAY, BUT SHE WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE ASSIGNED ROLES...
演劇
若草三姉妹
スグル…高山健子
エミコ…杉山夕工子
スガコ…石井修二
武士…大竹太郎
評論家…
老人…
SO IRRITATING... AH, FORGET IT. THE PLAY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME ANYWAY.
TAKAYAMA'S LEGS ARE SO SHORT, HOW CAN SHE ACT HER PART PROPERLY?
I HEARD THAT!
SHINODA-SAN!
SHINODA KUMI HAD ALWAYS DETESTED TAKAYAMA RITSUKO AND HAD BEEN SPEAKING BAD OF HER SOFTLY FROM HER SEAT...

YEAH!
THAT'S RIGHT! THIS DECISION WAS MADE BY THE CLASS AFTER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION! IT WON'T JUST CHANGE AS YOU PLEASE!
YOU'RE REALLY DESPICABLE! HOW DARE YOU CRITICIZE OTHERS WHEN YOU NEVER EVEN PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF OUR CLASS ACTIVITIES!
IF YOU THINK I'M UNFITTING FOR THE MAIN LEAD, THEN RAISE YOUR HAND AND VOICE IT OUT DARINGLY!
YOU ONLY KNOW HOW TO CRITICIZE OTHERS FROM THE SIDELINES!
YES, THAT MUST BE IT!
ADMIT IT, YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING AT ALL!
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU BE THE LEAD ROLE? YOU WON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ON STAGE ANYWAY!

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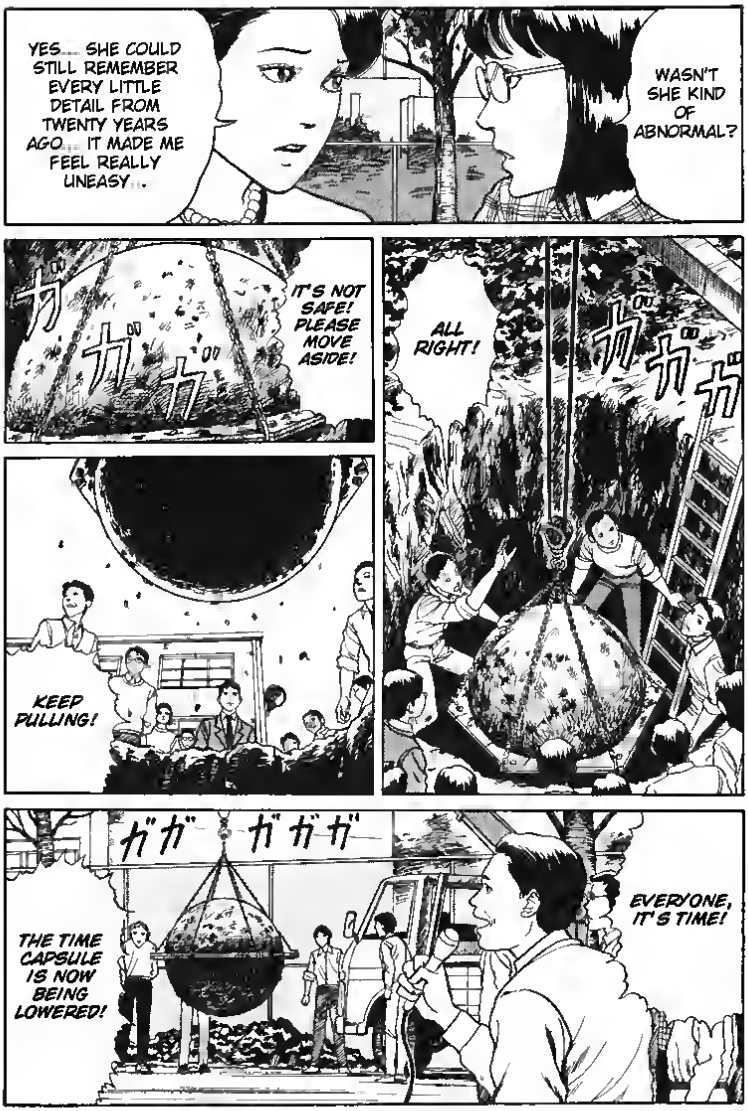
AFTER THAT, SHE NO LONG COMMUNICATE WITH ANY OF OUR CLASSMATES, NOR DID SHE PUT ANYTHING IN THE TIME CAPSULE.
THAT INCIDENT MUST HAVE BEEN THE MOST HUMILIATING MOMENT OF SHINODA'S LIFE
I FEEL MOVED!
EVERYONE LOOK, IT'S FINALLY DUG OUT!
ALL THE NOSTAL-GIA.
OH RIGHT... I RECALL THAT INCIDENT...
I WROTE IT TO SHINODA-SAN.
EH...? SO WHO WAS IT?
ACTUALLY I LIED, EJJI-SAN. I DO REMEMBER WHO I WROTE IT TO.

SO YOU WROTE YOUR LETTER TO HER — WHY?
WHY... WELL, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN QUITE WORRIED ABOUT HER
I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HER PERSONALITY WAS SO DISTORTED.
I WANTED TO KNOW HOW SHE WOULD BE LIKE AFTER TWENTY YEARS ...
I ANTICIPATED FOR THE DAY THAT SHE WOULD MATURE, THAT'S WHY I WROTE TO HER.
SHE DIDN'T COME, DID SHE?
SHE DIDN'T. I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HER SINCE EARLIER ...
... THAT IS JUST LIKE SOMETHING YOU WOULD DO.

I WONDER IF SHE'S JUST LIKE YOU HOPED, MATURED AT THIS AGE...
LET'S SEE.....
EH... REALLY? WHY WOULD SHE CALL YOU? WHAT DID SHE SAY?
BUT SHE HAS BEEN KEEPING CONTACT WITH ME
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE OUR GRADUATION.
SHE KEPT COMPLAINING HOW MUCH SHE HATED TAKAYAMA-SAN.... AND HOW ANGRY SHE WAS WHEN THE CLASS SCOLDED HER
SHE TALKED NON-STOP... I TRIED TO CHANGE THE TOPIC, BUT IT ONLY INFURIATED HER FURTHER.
FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS, SHE HAS CALLED NUMEROUS TIMES... AND SHE SAYS THE SAME THINGS EVERY TIME
SHE HAS CALLED ME A FEW DAYS BACK... AND IT'S GETTING INTOLERABLE


WASN'T SHE KIND OF ABNORMAL?
YES.... SHE COULD STILL REMEMBER EVERY LITTLE DETAIL FROM TWENTY YEARS AGO.... IT MADE ME FEEL REALLY UNEASY...
ガガガ
IT'S NOT SAFE! PLEASE MOVE ASIDE!
ALL RIGHT!
KEEP PULLING!
ガガ ガガガ
EVERYONE, IT'S TIME!
THE TIME CAPSULE IS NOW BEING LOWERED!

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WOULD I BE RECEIVING MORE CALLS FROM HER? I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY
...
IT MADE ME WONDER...
THE SHRIVELED BODY OF SHINODA WAS STILL WEARING OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM FROM TWENTY YEARS AGO, ALONG WITH ALL OF OUR LETTERS, ESSAYS AND ARTWORK THAT WERE SHREDDED BY HER.
WHEN DID SHE SNEAK INTO THE CAPSULE... AND WHY DID NO ONE REALISE THAT WHEN THE CAPSULE WAS BURIED?

IN THE SOIL * END